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Torres to JGO committee: Stop all these nonsense. PAGE 2
64 SIS students get their COVID-19 vaccine shots. PAGE 6

$1

Ethics complaint filed vs Propst

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vaiagae

Propst

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae, who is a counselor for abused women, filed yesterday an ethics complaint against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) over allegations that he had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College.

See ETHICS on Page 4

Babauta introduces Obama at COP26

This frame grab shows Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) as she introduces former U.S. president Barack Obama before his speech yesterday at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) made waves yesterday at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland as she introduced former U.S. president Barack Obama be-

See BABAUTA on Page 4

EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

Two U.S. Navy helicopters land at the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday afternoon between 1:10pm and 1:45pm. CHCC said it was an emergency transfer coordinated between CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam. Inset, a stretcher surrounded by medical staff is brought out of the Emergency Room and is taken away in the second helicopter at 1:45pm.
DANIEL STUTZMAN

9 more positives

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine more individuals were identified and confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, bringing the Commonwealth's total to 360.

See POSITIVES on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 8:12pm, Nov. 9, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	84.1%
Days since last community transmission	2

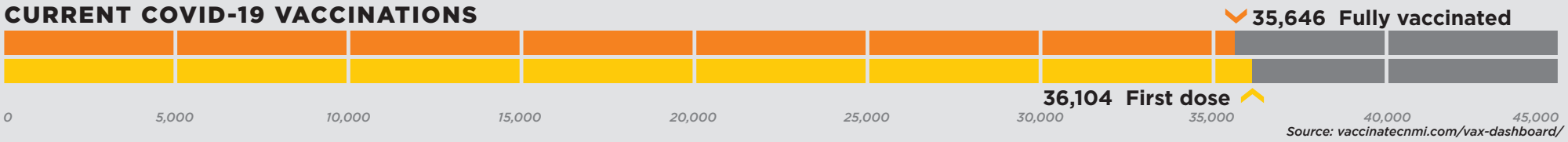
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	31,187
Fully Vaccinated:	29,987
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,917
Fully Vaccinated:	4,747
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	912

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	18,688	64	18,752
Recovered	15,803	2	15,805
Active	2,628	64	2,692
Deaths	249	8	255

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	351	9	360
Traced via Travel Screening	259	2	261
Traced via Community Screening	92	7	99
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
For the fourth consecutive year, Bank of Guam has again earned several MarCom Awards.
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NATION
The U.S. fully reopened to many vaccinated international travelers starting Monday.
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ASIA
A U.N. chief says that more than 3 million people in Myanmar need humanitarian assistance.
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Local

Torres to JGO committee: Stop all these nonsense

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee should bring their issues and concerns to him and stop putting other innocent government employees and their family through the hardship of being served with subpoenas to testify at the JGO hearing.

"[Instead of] dragging all these innocent, hardworking government employees, putting their families through this subpoena, and all these other stuff, come to me. I'm the principal and the one that you want to ask," said Torres during an interview with reporters shortly after the kickoff ceremony of the Coastal Construction Training "Building Resiliency" at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

Torres

The committee, which is chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

» 'JGO should stop dragging innocent gov't employees and ask me directly'

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Babauta.

When asked what triggered him to write a strongly-worded letter Monday to Babauta, the governor said he has always respected the House's process and that he had stated it many times before that if there are issues and concerns, they should reach out to him.

"We can sit down and talk about it," said Torres.

In his letter Monday, Torres lambasted Babauta and members of the Democratic Party for allegedly turning the JGO Committee's investigation into an "ill-informed, ill-managed, and irresponsible politi-

Continued on Next Page

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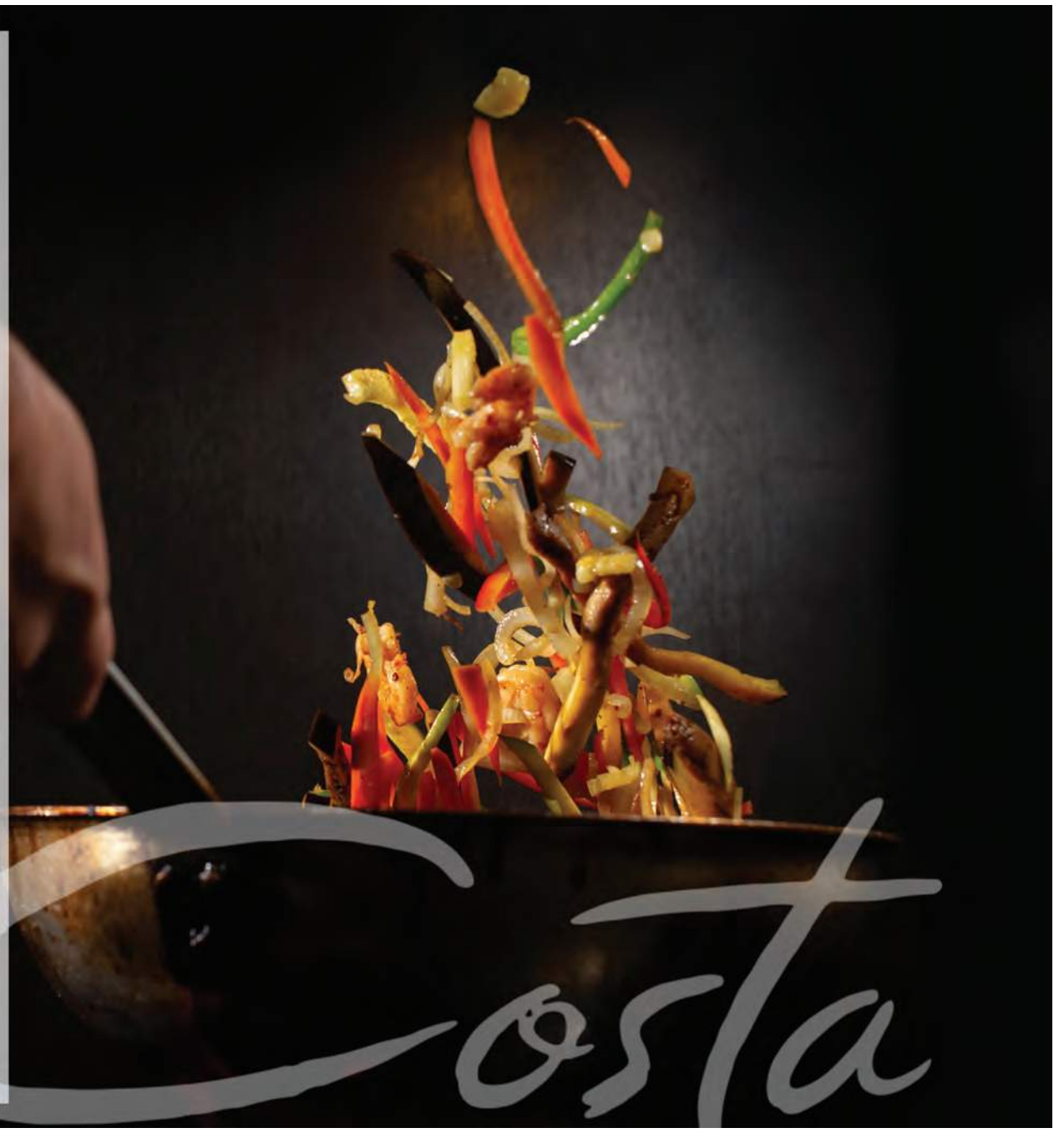

Continued from Page 2

cal showmanship."

The governor said yesterday that the JGO Committee would bring in "good, hard-working government employees" to the hearing and are even asked about matters that are not within their scope of work and about their opinion.

"So that's what triggered this [letter]—to stop all these nonsense," the governor said.

Torres pointed out that the JGO Committee has had all these information with them in the last two years and that they even have their own report about it.

"Now they're taking it to a whole new level. And of course, you kind of see the picture why it's being done," he said. "So first, if there's any wrongdoing, what is it?"

Torres said he is ready to answer in writing any questions and concerns by the JGO and that he will address it truthfully.

"I've said this in the beginning. You have questions, come talk to me. Let's have this discussion and address the concerns. We may not see eye to eye with each other. You may not like the authority I have. You may not like what I purchased. But first of all, if anything, is it illegal?" the governor asked.

Torres said the answer is "no" and if they disagree with all of his purchases and believe that he did anything wrong, why did they give him another $100,000 in discretionary funds as provided by the budget law?

A discretionary account can be used for official representation such as hosting off-island

See TORRES on Next Page

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Subpoena issued to Apple Inc. to access Cui's iCloud

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyers of former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Cui Li Jie have issued a subpoena for Apple Inc. in an attempt to purge the former IPI chair from the NMI District Court's previous contempt order in regards to her iCloud password.

According to the subpoena issued by Cui's lawyer, Joey San Nicolas, Apple is ordered to produce documents, information, or objects in the civil action no later than Nov. 30.

San Nicolas said the subpoena was issued to Apple last Nov. 5, commanding the preservation and/or delivery of Cui's data in her iCloud account.

On Nov. 7, San Nicolas, Cui, and her translator, How Yo Chi, met via Zoom with Somcham Teddy Estrellido to discuss the resetting of Cui's iCloud password. Through Estrellido Chi's efforts, Cui was able to successfully reset her iCloud password.

On the morning of Nov. 8, San Nicolas said he emailed the plaintiffs' attorneys informing them of the new iCloud password.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona set the matter for a status conference on Nov. 12, at 8am.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the U.S. District Court for the NMI found Cui in contempt for failing to provide the correct login information to her iCloud account.

During the status conference last Friday, Cui's lawyer, attorney Clyde Lemons, reported to the court via teleconference of his efforts in retrieve backup ESI data and gave notice of their intention to issue a subpoena.

After Manglona entered a contempt order against Cui, she then ordered Lemons to effectuate the issuance of the subpoena.

San Nicolas, who also represents Cui, told the court that he will assist as local counsel in issuing the subpoena to comply with the court's order.

The plaintiffs, through attorney Aaron Halegua, have accused Cui of violating the contempt order previously issued by the court in the lawsuit of seven workers alleging labor abuses and human trafficking.

The plaintiffs in this case are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan. They are represented by Halegua and Bruce Berline.

Cui is a third-party witness in the lawsuit of the seven construction workers against IPI and its former contractor and subcontractor, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, both of which have already settled with the plaintiffs.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

fore he took the stage to speak.

Obama acknowledged Babauta in his speech and thanked the representative for all the work that she has been doing in the Marianas, which he referred to as "a part of the world that is feeling the effects of climate change right now."

"Thank you for making what sometimes can seem a bunch of abstract numbers painfully, immediately real," the former president added.

Serving as the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Babauta is an alumna of the Obama Foundation Leadership Program–Asia Pacific Region, and is at the United Nations climate change conference to raise global awareness and consciousness on environmental protection, and to gather allies from and for indigenous communities around the world.

In her introduction, Babauta presented herself as a daughter of the Mariana Islands, born and raised on Saipan, an island next to Marianas Trench, the deepest point of the world's ocean.

"I am here to amplify the voices of those who live on the frontlines. On my island, storms are now unpredictable and frequently turned into super typhoons strong enough to impact our economy, destroy homes, and create fear at the very sound of wind gusts, and heavy rain, all while our shoreline continues to disappear," she said.

"We are not passive victims," Babauta stressed before an audience of world leaders. "As the first stewards of the land and ocean, our traditional knowledge can guide the way. All together we hold the keys to solving the issues of militarization, climate change, and climate colonialism."

The legislator also highlighted Obama as a son of the Asia Pacific, who has an understanding of the indigenous people's deep connections to the land, and who recognizes that communities impacted by climate change must have a seat at the table to ensure accountability and action from all parties who contribute major carbon emissions.

"We know it is up to us," Babauta said, highlighting the role younger people play in addressing climate change concerns. "We have the wisdom of our elders, the enthusiasm of our youth who have taken their place as leaders in this movement. We must recognize and respect this leadership and see it for the renewable resource that it is."

A video of Babauta's introduction of Obama was widely shared in the CNMI yesterday.

COP26 is not Babauta's first meeting with Obama. In December 2019, the legislator caught the former president's attention with her question on military presence in the Pacific Islands, during the Obama Foundation Leadership Program plenary held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Babauta will remain at the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland until Friday, where she will be attending panels to speak about militarization in the Pacific, among others, along with other Pacific island leaders.

■■■

Obama faults Russia, China

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—Barack Obama expressed confidence at U.N. climate talks Monday that the Biden administration will ultimately get its $555 billion climate package through Congress, and faulted U.S. rivals China and Russia for what he called a "dangerous lack of urgency" in cutting their own climate-wrecking emissions.

As nations complained of lagging trust and progress in the climate talks, Obama, one of the leaders who paved the way for the historic 2015 Paris climate deal, threw in a touch of his trademark hope but admitted that "images of dystopia" were creeping into his dreams.

"There are times where the future seems somewhat bleak. There are times where I am doubtful that humanity can get its act together before it's too late," Obama said at the two-week-long negotiations. "(But) we can't afford hopelessness."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

POSITIVES

From Page 1

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news release Monday night, the nine were found through travel testing and contact tracing on Nov. 6 and Nov. 7 and have all been quarantined and are being actively monitored.

CHCC also reported Sunday that since Oct. 28 there have been 69 new cases of COVID-19: 53 identified through contact tracing, 10 through community-based testing, and six through travel testing. Also, 179 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Nov. 7 comprising travel and surveillance testing.

CHCC said its Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already reached out to those who were in closest contact with the new cases and that the team will continue its efforts "until all probable cases are identified and tested."

CHCC also said that its contact tracers have reached out to contacts who are deemed high risk, and that "the associated risk of infection depends on the level of exposure, which will, in turn, determine the type of monitoring." CHCC added that establishing the level of exposure can be difficult and requires investigation.

For individuals in the community experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, and new loss of taste or smell, CHCC asks those concerned to see their healthcare providers or call the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at 670-233-2067.

ETHICS

From Page 1

"This is a serious issue and the recognition that abuse of any form should not be accepted, especially by those in positions of power, is critical to ensure that no individual can corrupt an institution tasked with serving our people," said Vaiagae in her complaint letter to House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Vaiagae attached to her letter a copy of an Office of the Attorney General's memorandum detailing its investigation and the reported instances of abuse and attempted rape by Propst.

Villagomez confirmed that he did receive the letter, but stated that he did not get a chance to review it yet.

"I need to go over the letter again. This is something that I would also like to discuss with our legal counsel," he said.

Propst said the complaint "is obviously a distraction" from the NMI Republican Party and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on the House Judiciary and Governmental Organization's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Propst said that Torres' "cronies prefer to distract and destroy and are desperate to change the focus from his horrible record as an inept, incompetent, corrupt governor."

He said the governor claims he wants to see a clean campaign, but that is clearly not the case.

"Deplorable, disgusting, but not surprising," he said.

On Sept. 28, 2020, Propst resigned as House Precinct 1 representative, 20 days after a private citizen asked then-House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao that Propst be investigated for alleged sexual misconduct when he was still an MHS teacher.

Propst became a Precinct 1 representative again after being overwhelmingly voted into office during the November 2020 election. Right now, he chairs the House Gaming Committee.

According to Vaiagae in the complaint, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, when victims of sexual assault are unable to speak for themselves, "we as a community must advocate for them."

She requested Villagomez to establish an Ethics Committee to investigate the allegations against Propst to determine "whether an individual with numerous allegations of coercion, sexual assault, and attempted rape should serve in the same manner as other House members."

Vaiagae said if the House does not permit such an investigation, Villagomez would be conceding that a member of the body is above the law and beyond reproach.

Vaiagae, who was the NMI Republican Party's candidate in the special election for a House Precinct 3 seat last Oct. 16, said that during the course of her campaign, one matter that was always being brought up that resonated deeply with her was the issue of abuse.

Vaiagae said she has spent much of her life counseling and aiding women who have been victims of abuse throughout the island. "Abuse comes in many forms and its impacts and mental health implications are widespread among our families," she said.

She pointed out that, time and time again, the allegations and findings of sexual assault and abuse by Propst have come up in conversations she had had with members of the community.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 3

dignitaries, holding public events, and other matters, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Torres said he always respect the Legislature as he is a former legislator. "But the way they're doing it, it's absolutely ridiculous," said the governor.

The JGO Committee is controlled by Democratic Party representatives. Torres is the titular head of the NMI Republican Party.

Asked if he is willing to testify before the JGO, Torres said if the committee decides otherwise from his request to give him the questions in writing, then they will address that issue at that moment.

On the continued "attacks" on him and his family, the governor said it's sad that it's not just coming from the Democratic Party as there are other entities that are involved. He did not elaborate.

To everyone who has been in the CNMI since Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, Torres said they should be asked if they are satisfied with the government's recovery efforts.

"Do you feel that the government, the governor, the lieutenant governor at that time. …Do you feel that they took care of you? That they put every effort every day, day in day out to provide water?" he asked. Then when Typhoon Mangkhut came in September 2018, did people see him out there?

"You don't change history. You go back and you reflect on it. So with me looking back at the efforts that I put into it, from Soudelor, Mangkhut, to [Super Typhoon] Yutu, was I there for the community? Did I put my hours with those officers, with those first responders, with the mayor's office?" he asked.

Torres said everyone knows and feels in their heart that their governor was there during those times when they needed him most.

With respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor said people know in their hearts, in the community's heart, who was in the frontline with the first responders.

"We were breaking records every day, every month. You don't just wake up and say, 'Okay, you know, I want to break a record today.' You don't. You do it in your heart. You do it under hardship, hard work and dedication, with cooperation with everyone," he said.

Torres said he has never taken credit for anything other than giving all of their partners, the first responders and the community all the credit.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Torres lauds partnership with FEMA in recovery efforts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, front row, fifth from right, is joined by representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program, and other participants during the start of the Coastal Construction Training "Building Resilience" at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao yesterday. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres underscored yesterday the importance of the CNMI's partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in CNMI's recovery efforts from devastating typhoons and in finding ways to build capacity to restore, design, and construct resilient buildings.

"For each of the natural disasters we have faced, our FEMA partners followed through to ensure that we have had the relief needed to rebuild our Commonwealth," said Torres in his remarks during the start yesterday of the Coastal Construction Training "Building Resilience" at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

The CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program hosted the training, with support from FEMA Building Science, Mitigation Assessment Team, which sent a team to the CNMI to conduct the training, and FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination.

The free trainings and small group sessions will take place throughout November to address coastal construction techniques. FEMA MAT instructors will lead the trainings and be available for small group meetings and virtual office appointments from Nov. 3 through Nov. 17.

The first two-day coastal construction training started yesterday and will continue today, Nov. 10, with the second on Nov. 15-16. Both sessions will be held at the Aqua Resort Club from 7:30am to 4pm.

Torres said the CNMI has dealt with some of the most challenging natural disasters that the Commonwealth and the country have ever seen. Even as the CNMI was still in the middle of recovery efforts from devastating typhoons that have severely damaged the CNMI's infrastructure, COVID-19 pandemic happened, Torres said.

"Now, we are still working toward recovery with this added challenge. However, I know firsthand that the people of the CNMI are a hard-working, resilient community," he said.

The governor said the trainings focus on a concept that stays true in the CNMI: Building Resilience.

He said the CNMI's infrastructure impacts people's daily lives, and that the Commonwealth is still on the path of development to be more resilient through safe, smart growth.

"By providing this opportunity for our local professionals in the construction industry, we are all constructing resilience for the future," Torres said.

These trainings are specifically directed toward residential construction workers, general contractors, building inspectors, code enforcement officials, design professionals who want to learn more about coastal construction techniques and their applicability in the CNMI.

64 SIS students get their COVID-19 vaccine shots

A total of 64 students aged 5-11 were vaccinated yesterday at Saipan International School as part of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s campaign to roll out its COVID-19 pediatric vaccinations at school sites.

CHCC is working with both the CNMI Public School System and some member schools of the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools as it kicks off its campaign to vaccinate students in the Commonwealth.

"We are extremely happy to be able to work with [CHCC] to offer the vaccination to families that want it. We decided to have a little fun with it by having our high school population welcome the vaccinated elementary students from a distance while playing music from the 'Music to Get Vaccinated To' playlist. I believe these types of proactive partnerships between [CHCC] and schools will help us maintain strong educational programs, while protecting our students in these difficult times," said SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder.

Other non-public schools have also signed up to be vaccination sites including, but not limited to, Brilliant Star Montessori School, Mount Carmel School, and Saipan Community School.

"Despite the unfortunate community spread over the past couple weeks, we as educators are grateful that the guidelines and protocols in place have mitigated the impact of COVID-19 at this time," said Amanda Dunn, principal of Saipan Community School. "This also indicates how successful the COVID-19 Task Force, CHCC and the CNMI government have been in vaccinating our population and isolating individuals who have tested positive. I hope that the availability of the vaccine for children ages 5 - 11 will only strengthen our ability to get through this crisis together as a community."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young students of Saipan International School show off their bandages after being vaccinated against COVID-19.

The CNMI received its first doses of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine last Saturday and began rolling out immunizations that same day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The Pfizer vaccine has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, joining many other countries worldwide offering the vaccine to younger children. For more information, visit: https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-emergency-use-children-5-through-11-years-age. ***(PR)***

CNMI's wildland fire crew returns

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Wildland Fire Crew 36—a group of 18 individuals who were deployed by the CNMI government and the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to aid the California Department of Forestry in its battle against the ongoing California wildland fires—have returned home.

After a three-month long deployment, the CNMI saw the return of its Wildland Fire Crew 36 last month.

According to one of the crew members, Ralph Magofna, the journey was definitely an adventure and that the difference in this year's deployment was that the CNMI crew was trusted to fight the fires head on, instead of at the rear like in previous years.

"Our deployment this year was pretty active and adventurous. For the previous years that the CNMI was deployed, we were in the rear of the fire. This year we were fortunate enough to be ahead of the fire and we were more active and aggressive," he said.

With the newfound trust in the CNMI team, the crew expects a longer deployment next year due to the ongoing drought seen in the West Coast.

"Next year we're looking at a possibly longer deployment due to the shortage of manpower California is facing and the drought that's taking over the land," Magofna said.

According to DFEMS fire chief Dennis Mendiola, although he was reluctant to send out the group given the shortage that the department was facing at the time, it all worked out for the best now that they're back home safe and they gained years' worth of experience within three months.

"Not only are they going out there to support the fight, they're also going out there to gain experience and they bring that experience back here and that experience really helps us here in our dry season," he said.

Of the 18 individuals who were deployed to help the California Forestry team, nine were firefighters and nine were civilians. The nine DFEMS firefighters include Ralphael L. Magofna, Linus L. Mizutani Jr., Sixtus L. Aquino, Saturno Kaipat, Justin Paul Mizutani, Christino George, Joseph Lifoifoi Jr., Stanley Zacrie Santos Jr., and Roman John P. Camacho.

The nine civilians include Vincent Agulto, Devin De Leon Guerrero, Ryan Garde, Joseph Guerrero, Sammy Litulumar, Henry Aguon, Frederick Henry Lisua Litulumar, and Adolfo Roppu.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2021-039	CDBG-DR Compliance Manager (1-Position) RE-ANNOUNCEMENT	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00 per annum	November 10, 2021	November 26, 2021 4:00 PM
2021-041	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00 per annum	November 10, 2021	November 26, 2021 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 • email: ppmo@marianas.edu

LAPTOP COMPUTER AND ACCESSORIES

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 22-0002

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of Information Technology Equipment for NMC CREES offices on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

The bid specifications and Scope of Work packet may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**
Electronic packet, Anita Camacho email:
anita.camacho@marinas.edu

Bid submission
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus Saipan
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, December 13, 2021, ChST

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award No. NI20HFPXXXXXG059-002 (Regular)/Smith Lever Act section 3b & 3c, Award No. NI17SLBCXXXXG020-004.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
is inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

(1) IT Manager
(1) Chief Accountant
(1) Building Maintenance Worker

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

HR Office
Herman's Modern Bakery Inc.
P.O. Box 500002 Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 288-1726;
or by e-mail: hr@hermansbakery.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Seventeenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. virtually via meet.google.com/ppa-gfti-vxx.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business
1. Bank of Hawaii/Bank of Guam Signature Card
2. Retention Incentive: Title I and others
3. Update on Re-Opening of School (F2F)
4. PSS Calendar of Events
   a. Education Day
   b. PD Report
   c. Special Event Calendar
5. Certification & Licensure Matters
   a. CLO Report No. 2021-17-10

V. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

VI. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VII. Adjournment

[1] *In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.*
[2] *Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.*
[3] *Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.*

Comments sought on CHCC's proposed changes to school rules and regulations

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public comments are currently being sought on proposed amendments to the "CHCC School and Child Care Facilities and Communicable Disease Rules and Regulations" to add COVID-19 vaccinations as a requirement for obtaining health certificates and possibly also for enrolling in "any public or private school within the Commonwealth."

Comments are due within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice, which was Oct. 28, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. asks those submitting comments to share all relevant data, views, or arguments.

Those with comments on the matter may send them to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña by fax or email at esther.muna@dph.gov.mp with the subject header, "Attn: Revision to CHCC School and Child Care Facilities Regulations, and Communicable Diseases Rules and Regulations."

One proposed amendment would be to include proof of COVID-19 vaccination as an additional requirement for obtaining a health certificate.

Currently, Section 140-20.4-201 of CHCC's school rules and regulations read that "any person who desires to work in, or attend, a school/child care facility shall be physically examined by the Department of Public Health or a licensed physician in private practice and shall be issued a health certificate stating that the applicant employee or student is free of pathogens and parasites and other forms of communicable diseases," and that "no person shall be allowed to attend to any client of a school/child care facility who has been found to be infected with any form of communicable disease."

Currently listed diseases that one must be vaccinated or immunized against for the purpose of receiving a health certificate include diphtheria; pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles (rubeola), mumps, and rubella (German measles), and hepatitis B.

The proposed amendment will to include "COVID-19 and its variants (to the extent the child is eligible to receive the vaccine)" to this list of diseases.

Another proposed amendment is to section 140-10.3-365, regarding vaccination and immunization. Currently, the section reads, "No child shall be enrolled in any public or private school within the Commonwealth unless evidence is presented to the enrolling officer that the child has had all such vaccinations or immunizations, including but not limited to diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella (German measles), [and] hepatitis B." The proposed amendment is to include "COVID-19 and its variants (to the extent the child is eligible to receive the vaccine)."

Section 140-10.3-365 currently acknowledges that vaccination exemptions for religious reasons can be obtained.

"...exemption may be granted upon certification by a parent or legal guardian that such vaccination or immunization would be against their religious belief or a child that has been certified by a licensed medical doctor that said child shall be exempt from this section where medical contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine exists," it reads.

According to CHCC's legal counsel through information obtained Monday by CHCC public information officer Guillermo Lifoifoi, first in this process is the 30-day comment period ending Nov. 28.

Next, CHCC's board will meet to consider the comments and, "if requested, issue a statement for or against its adoption," said Lifoifoi. Then the regulations will then need to be approved by the Office of the Attorney General. After the attorney general approves, the regulations are published, and they become effective 10 days after publication and AG approval.

The public notice making known CHCC's proposed amendments were put on record at the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission's *Commonwealth Register*, and was signed by Muña and CHCC board of trustees chair Lauri B. Ogumoro on Oct. 28. The public notice was received on Oct. 28 by Mathilda A. Rosario, who is the Governor's Special Assistant for Administration, and filed and recorded on Oct. 29 by Esther R.M. San Nicholas at the Commonwealth Registrar.

MELONY H. DAVID
P.O. BOX 506087, TUN SEGUNDO
ST. CK, SAIPAN
(670) 287-6552

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

M.H.D. Minor Child By: Melony Harry David Petitioner) FCD-GU-CIVIL ACTION 21-0379) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim - Tenorio.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/MICAH-HOME-005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-AS-006

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUCKET TRUCKS AND TRUCK CRANE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of six bucket trucks and one 30ton truck crane for the CUC Power Distribution in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-003, Supply and Delivery of Bucket Trucks and Truck Crane)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 6, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 12, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org, and Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer at email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in via email to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-004, Supply & Delivery of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 24, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 16, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Generation Manager via email, richard.cano@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The case for Manchin's intransigence

On Friday, Democrats in the House of Representatives finally voted to pass the bipartisan infrastructure bill that the Senate approved back in August. This gives President Joe Biden an important legislative achievement, something he badly needed. The measure is far from perfect, but it includes some necessary and valuable investments, and won support from both sides in Congress. It's to be welcomed.

However, wrangling over Biden's bigger and more contentious "Build Back Better" plan is far from over. West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin and Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema have spent weeks objecting to aspects of this omnibus tax-and-spending plan and spurning numerous changes designed to appease them. Last week Manchin escalated his quarrel with his party yet again, saying he wasn't ready to support any plan before it has been thoroughly costed and assessed for its effects on the economy, and he's given no sign that Friday's votes in the House will change his mind.

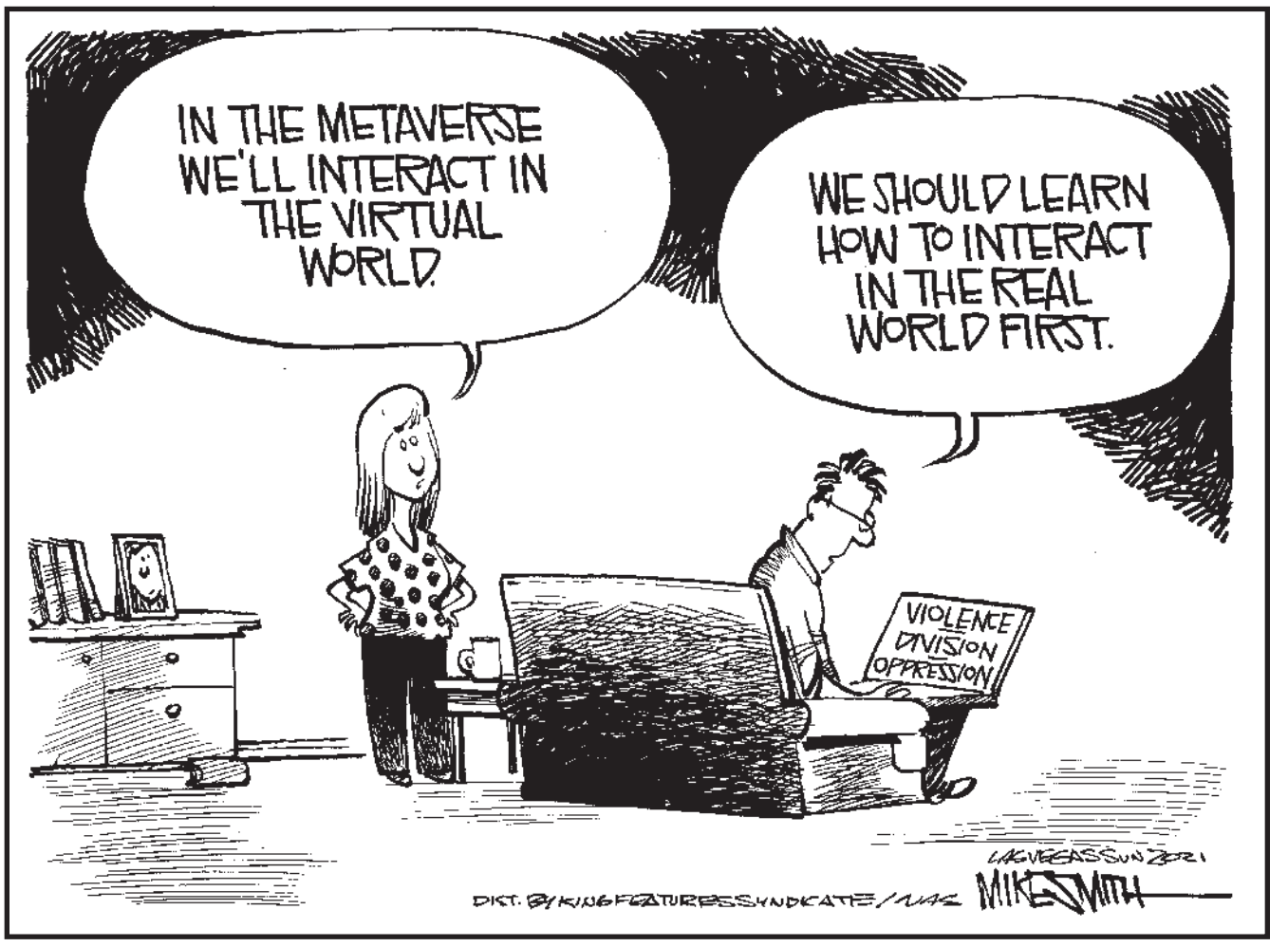
Democrats' patience with Manchin is at an end. But they should ask whether many of the country's voters—and not just in West Virginia—might see things his way. Enacting an enormous tax-and-spending bill without knowing exactly how it will work, what it will cost or whether it will help or hurt the economy is irresponsible. Manchin's intransigence is serving a vital public purpose.

Moderate Democrats in the House of Representatives have echoed his concerns, asking their leaders for more time and insisting that an analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office should be done before they vote on the bigger bill. Rep. John Yarmuth said he couldn't see why the CBO needed to get involved before the vote—coming from the chairman of the House Budget Committee, that's disappointing.

In addition to calling for a more cautious and exacting process, Manchin continues to lodge specific complaints and demands. Many of these are also justified. The "Build Back Better" plan started out much too big. In its latest revision, it still squeezes far too much into a single measure—a tactic demanded by "reconciliation" (which avoids the need to recruit 10 Republican senators to defeat a filibuster). It's packed with gimmicks, including counting a decade's worth of tax revenues to pay for spending programs marked to expire much sooner. Months into this process, the proposal continues to change shape day by day. Despite cuts, it's still projected to cost nearly $2 trillion—repeat, trillion. And that's most likely an underestimate.

Biden and other Democratic leaders built pressure to pass this omnibus package by stalling the infrastructure bill (which the CBO had vetted, by the way) so that the two could be voted on together. This both-or-neither strategy, insisted upon by the party's progressives, was ill-judged from the outset, and after pointless, protracted delay can be judged a political failure as well. Now that the infrastructure bill has been passed, Congress needn't cut short its deliberations over the far more

See CASE on Next Page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WE SHOULD LEARN HOW TO INTERACT IN THE REAL WORLD FIRST.
VIOLENCE
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MIKE SMITH

The life of Brandon

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

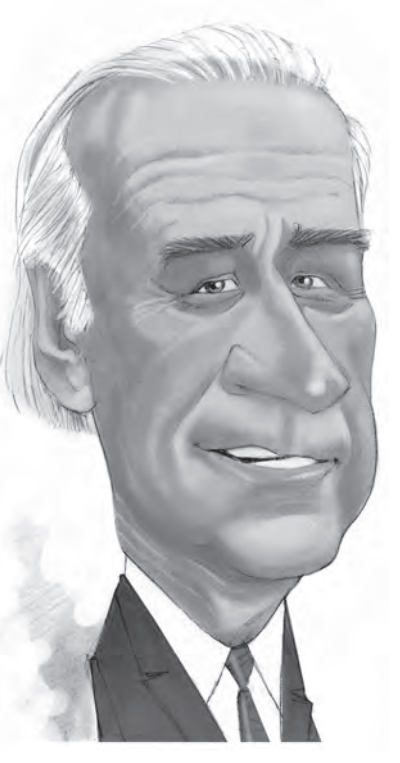
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

There's a crisis afoot in the land—people are being rude to President Joe Biden.

The trend of anti-Biden protestors chanting or holding signs saying, "F--- Joe Biden," or the cleaner version that has come to signify the same thing, "Let's go Brandon," is being portrayed as a new low in American politics.

A recent *Washington Post* report was headlined, "Biden's Critics Hurl Increasingly Vulgar Taunts." It stipulated presidents have always been the subject of derision and abuse, then claimed, "The current eruption of anti-Biden signs and chants, however, is on another level, far more vulgar, and widespread."

Really? Put aside all the abuse presidents were subjected to prior to the digital age, whether John Quincy Adams ("pimp"), Andrew Jackson ("a greater tyrant than Cromwell, Cesar, or Bonaparte"), Martin van Buren ("Martin van Ruin"), Abraham Lincoln ("the original gorilla") or Theodore Roosevelt ("that damned cowboy"). The last few years weren't exactly a mannerly period of polite disagreement in our national life.



As Byron York of the *Washington Examiner* has noted, Donald Trump's opponents gloried in the F-word, such that without it some of them would have been rendered practically mute. When Robert De Niro introduced Bruce Springsteen at the 2018 Tony Awards, he used the opportunity to declare: "I'm gonna say one thing. F--- Trump." Cue the standing ovation.

A Los Angeles art gallery had a "F---Trump" exhibit, rapper Eminem led a "F---Trump" call-and-response at a concert in England, and so on.

If lobbing this particular vulgarity is now completely out of bounds, the new progressive rule is "F--- you" for me, but not for thee.

After gaining traction with roadside demonstrators outside Biden events and with college football fans, the "F--- Joe Biden" chant took an unexpected turn last month. The NASCAR driver Brandon Brown won a race at the Talladega Superspeedway and the reporter interviewing him misstated a growing "F--- Joe Biden" chant in the background as fans saying, "Let's go Brandon."

The scene was like something out of the Will Ferrell comedy "Talladega Nights." A meme was born.

The substitute version of the insult, instantly adopted by the president's critics, is more lighthearted than the original. Fundamentally, it's a joke. It is a gibe at Biden, of course, but also at the misreporting of the chant at the raceway, which is taken as a symbol of the media's ridiculous protectiveness toward Biden.

The chant is also amusingly anodyne, given its provenance. Who can object to the cheering on Brandon, whoever he is?

Not everyone appreciates the humor, though. When a Southwest Airlines pilot allegedly spoke the offending phrase over the intercom on a flight with an Associated Press reporter on board, the outrage machine kicked into gear in a particularly blatant display of humorlessness and lack of proportion.

Harvard professor and CNN commentator Juliette Kayyem posted a missive supposedly from another pilot calling for the Southwest pilot and the crew all to be fired on grounds that he must have been too mentally unbalanced to operate the plane.

Asha Rangappa, another CNN commentator and a Yale law professor, compared the pilot's statement with saying, "Long live ISIS," as if expressing an anti-Biden sentiment in a jokey way is the same as pledging loyalty to a terror group that would love its acolytes to crash airliners.

Of course, pilots shouldn't make political announcements on their flights, and it'd be better if no one resorted to public obscenities when referring to Biden, Trump, or any other officeholder. But it's one of the privileges of living in a democratic age that people can insult the head of state without fear of jail or other punishment.

Anyone who thinks deriding a U.S. president, especially an unpopular one, is breaking new, dangerous ground knows nothing of our history or what it's like to live in a clamorous continental nation. Partisan insults, vulgar and not, come with the territory.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

TSA is the wrong agency for enforcing the federal mask mandate at airports

By SHELDON JACOBSON
Chicago Tribune

Sheldon H. Jacobson is professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Anyone who has flown over the past year knows that face coverings are required in airports and on commercial flights. This has become the standard for air travel. Yet a mandate is only as good as its compliance and enforcement.

Forbes recently reported that the Transportation Security Administration has fined less than 1% of those reported to be noncompliant. The TSA even increased the fine for violators in September, as a deterrent to those unwilling to comply.

But is the TSA the right agency to enforce the mandate? The short answer is "no," but it's not that simple. It's important to fully understand and appreciate the spectrum of security responsibilities already placed on the TSA before adding to it. It also requires one to look more closely at the profile of face-covering violators.

I'm a computer science professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and my research focuses on collecting and analyzing data. I have also researched aviation security for over 25 years.

During a recent rain delay at one of the Chicago airports, I decided to collect data on how people at the airport were wearing their face coverings. Positioning myself at a single point in a concourse eliminated double-counting people and kept me away from eating establishments where masks are routinely removed. Only adults were included in my data collection exercise.

Around 85% to 90% of the people were fully compliant, wearing a face covering correctly over mouth and nose. The range provides a measure of uncertainty given the limited number of data points collected. The split between men and women was fairly even.

Around 10% to 14% were wearing a face covering, but it did not cover their nose. The remaining 1% to 2% wore no face covering, including those who tied it around their neck like a bandanna.

Of those who wore their face covering without covering their nose, or were not wearing any face covering, around 75% to 80% percent were men.

The good news from this data collection exercise is that the majority of people are following the federal mandate. For those not compliant, men are the most prevalent violators.

These observations are by no means conclusive, given that the sample size was just a few hundred people, on a specific day, at a specific airport. However, it does provide some information that may be useful for all airports across the nation and who should be enforcing the federal mandate.

This past October, around 1.8 million people flew each day on average. If just 1% were not wearing a face covering, this translates to around 18,000 maskless travelers every day. This is in contrast to over 4,000 face-covering violations reported to the TSA in seven months between February 2021 and September 2021, or around 20 violators per day.

This presents a quandary in multiple ways.

Every face-covering violator reported may correspond to over 900 who go unreported but are in violation of the federal mandate. This means that the vast majority of such people remain unidentified.

The TSA recently reported that they found almost 4,500 firearms at security checkpoints through Oct. 3, or around 16 firearms per day on average. Most people would agree that detecting people not wearing a face covering is significantly easier than detecting a firearm in a carry-on bag. Yet firearm detection and face-covering violator reports are occurring at similar rates, even though the number of such mask violators is much larger.

To go one step further, if every face-covering violation resulted in a fine of $500, the new minimum, those 18,000 maskless travelers would generate over $3 billion per year in fines, which is around 40% of the TSA annual budget.

Clearly, this analysis illustrates why the TSA is the wrong agency to enforce the federal face-covering mandate.

Chasing passengers for violating the face-covering mandate is a distraction that the TSA should not be required to enforce. Even reporting such a violation to the agency is inappropriate. However, the potential revenue is sufficient to warrant large airports creating a staff of law enforcement officers that would easily pay for itself.

Increasing the fine for repeat violators is acceptable. However, banning them from traveling by air by not permitting them to pass through airport security checkpoints for a specified time period would serve as a more effective deterrent for future violations.

The takeaway from this data collection exercise is that a preponderance of travelers are following the federal mask mandate. Asking the TSA to enforce the mandate is misguided, inappropriate and dangerous. Let airport-staffed law enforcement do the job, and the problem of face mask violations would get resolved more effectively.

Panicky holiday shopping is dumb and self-defeating

By ALEXIS LEONDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Alexis Leondis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering personal finance. Previously, she oversaw tax coverage for* Bloomberg News.

Hey, calm down! Ignore all those frantic experts who are urging consumers to tackle holiday shopping earlier than usual due to supply-chain issues and shipping delays.

The idea that all, or even most, shopping has to be completed as soon as possible this year is overkill. The only real beneficiaries are retailers and their bottom lines.

Sure, there may be low stock for certain items. But all that means is that it's smart to be opportunistic about grabbing specific, cherished goodies that might fly off the shelves. Think of a particular Lego set that your child has her heart set on. Most holiday gifts don't actually fall into that category.

Rushing to complete all holiday shopping out of fear of things becoming unavailable is likely to backfire.

Research shows that in an environment where perceived scarcity looms large, consumers are less thoughtful about their purchases. They buy more than they need and spend more than they ordinarily would.

In addition, if shoppers buy too early in the season, the pain of payment often recedes so that as the holidays near, they wind up adding more to the pile of gifts than they had intended. It's much like diners who pay for high-end meals in advance, and then tend to spend on extras such as wine or specialty items when they get to the restaurant, according to Charles Lindsey, a marketing professor at the University at Buffalo.

Shoppers can also miss out on some of the best deals if they buy most of their holiday items too early. It's true that some retailers have bumped up their promotions. Amazon.com provided discounts in early October, for example. Target Corp. launched savings offers on Halloween, and Walmart Inc.'s first round of deals is kicking off now. But Black Friday and Cyber Monday are still when the biggest savings are likely.

Procrastinators, rejoice! Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, so even bigger deals may come the week leading up to it, according to Marshal Cohen, chief industry adviser of the NPD Group, which provides market data for retailers.

Some retailers may offer price matches to make consumers more comfortable about buying early. So, if an item is listed for a lower price at a competitor later on, they'll be made whole. Beware, though. Retailers often have exclusions such as blackout periods on Black Friday, when price matching won't be available.

Also, if rebates are any guide, consumers who think they'll avail themselves of the price-matching guarantee usually don't, meaning that buying early is likely to cost them money.

For high-end shoppers, where the luxury market already plays on a sense of limited inventory and exclusivity, anxiety about nabbing holiday gifts could lead to even more needless spending. Still, sales are expected to be limited and any discounting may just be for out-of-season merchandise.

Shoppers who just can't tune out the holiday warnings should consider a gift card. That way, they'll be able to spend what they want, when they want, hassle-free.

CASE

From Page 8

complicated, ambitious and still-unfinished reconciliation package. It should be cast in final form, examined by the CBO and debated in public and in detail, so that Congress and the country as a whole can see what they're actually getting.

It doesn't much matter whether Manchin, Sinema and the other moderate Democrats have acted out of high-minded principle or for more selfish, hard-headed electoral reasons. Given last week's results in Virginia and elsewhere, Democrats would be foolish to dismiss the latter—but the main issue is simpler. Fiscal responsibility requires honesty, transparency and due deliberation. Throughout the "Build Back Better" saga, all have been conspicuously lacking, and without Manchin and Sinema, whatever their motives, the resulting budget mess might have been forced on the country regardless.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Praiseworthy DFEMS cadets

To DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola:

On the evening around 6:30pm of Nov. 8, 2021, I was driving up to our home in Kagman. Shortly after passing the San Vicente Church, I heard a very loud sound. I was wondering what that sound was but I just ignored it and kept on driving but as I drove, I realized that my car was moving very slowly, with a flopping sound. I pulled over to the closest store in San Vicente to find out what was going on with my car. To my surprise, I saw I had a flat tire. Immediately I called my husband to rescue me. As he was fixing my flat tire, three young men and a young lady wearing red T-shirts with the word "Cadet" came out of the store. They saw my husband perspiring as he was trying to loosen the nuts on the tire.

These young people were from Rota and they were Drey Apatang, Felix Atalig, and Dwayne Blas and the lovely lady was Marnecia Hocog. They came over to us to offer their help. My husband and I were relieved to have these young people who were so energetic and ready to offer their services. They all worked as a team. The task was just fixing a flat tire but they were very professional and exemplified strong leadership and services to others in need of help.

Mr. Mendiola, I salute these young people for coming to our rescue. It reminded me of Jesus' teaching to serve others in need (Mark 10:35-45). They were the good Samaritans. They have the charismatic zeal to be great firefighters of the CNMI.

From the very bottom of our hearts, my husband and I wholeheartedly express our thank you and *si yuus maase* to these great firefighters and you should be very proud of them as part of your team.

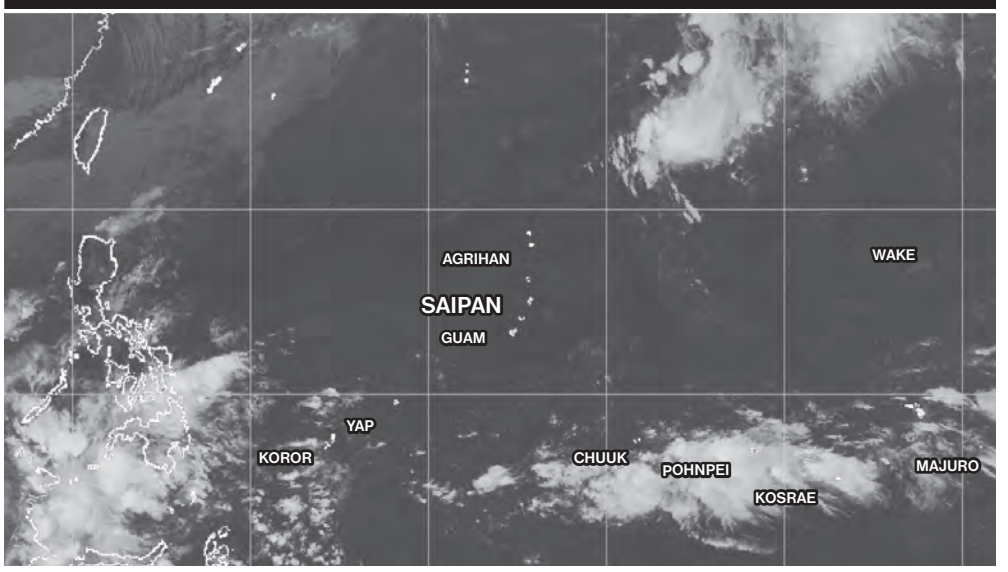
Winnie C. Camacho
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Satellite shows a grouping of clouds just east of 150E, however it`s rather sparse. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell, with a north swell of about 2 feet showing up in WW3 guidance. This north swell would largely be blocked from reaching Ipan buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:37 AM	11:07 PM	-
Thursday	12:30 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:07 AM	1:17 PM
Saturday	-	1:03 AM	1:58 PM
Sunday	-	1:55 AM	2:37 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	52° / 28°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	77° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	56° / 39°
Osaka	Sunny	66° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Salem	Rain	66° / 46°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Rain	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.50
1:29 PM	High Tide	1.78
6:57 PM	Low Tide	1.25
10:49 PM	High Tide	1.55

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Bank of Guam wins recognition for marketing excellence

HAGATNA, Guam—For the fourth consecutive year, Bank of Guam has earned MarCom Awards in marketing and communications excellence, for which there were 6,000 entries from submissions in 41 countries for the 2021 MarCom International Awards Competition.

The Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals, which sponsors these competitions, announced that Bank of Guam has won the following:

PLATINUM: 2020 BankGuam Holding Year in Review - What Hope Looks Like

PLATINUM: Bank of Guam Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility - 2021 Founder's Day of Giving Project

PLATINUM: Bank of Guam Team Award for Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility Department

HONORABLE MENTION: 2021 Bank of Guam Calendar: The Language of Hope

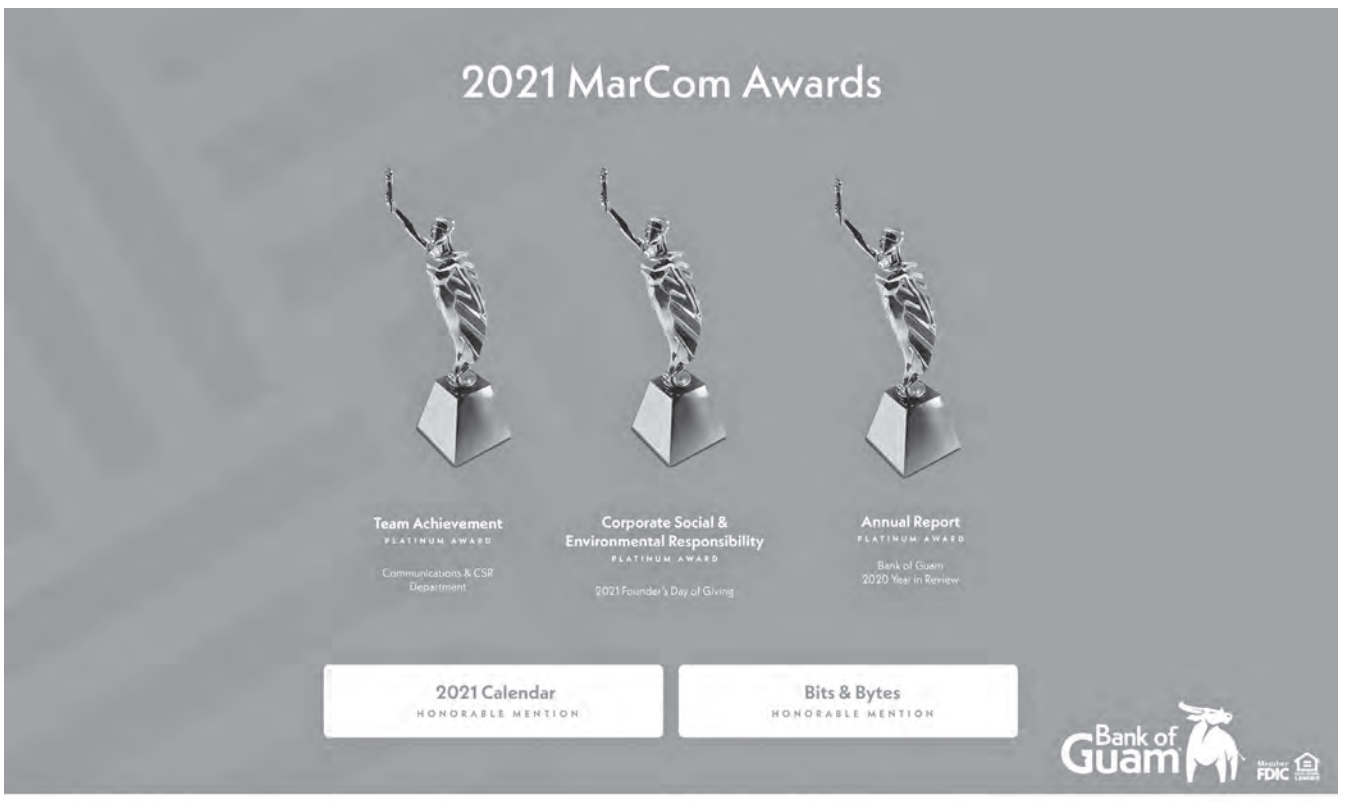
HONORABLE MENTION: 2021 Bank of Guam Internal Newsletter (BITS & BYTES), Sustainable Farming

"We are ecstatic for the recognition earned by our Bank of Guam *familia* team and the pieces produced by them," said Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer. "Since our first entry in 2018, Bank of Guam has now earned 14 awards for its locally created and produced pieces, representing distinguished honors for our organization. We are proud to be recognized for excellence in quality, creativity and resourcefulness."

Jackie A. Marati, Bank of Guam's senior vice president/chief communications and corporate social responsibility officer said, "These recognitions go well beyond our region and the financial services industry, and speak to the purpose for which we have existed for nearly 50 years. 2020 was a deeply challenging year for all of us, both professionally and personally, and I want to thank the team who continued to work with purpose and compassion these last nearly two years and more."

MarCom Awards recognizes outstanding achievement by creative professionals involved in the concept, direction, design and production of marketing and communication materials and programs. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, public relations firms, design shops, and production companies.

Bank of Guam will celebrate its 50th anniversary in March 2022, and maintains 17 branches throughout Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and San Francisco, California under TASI Bank. ***(PR)***



MarCom Platinum statuettes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Australia announces policy to boost electric car sales

An electric car gets charged at a supermarket carpark in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021.

AP

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister on Tuesday announced plans to encourage people to buy electric vehicles weeks after his government was accused at a U.N. conference in Scotland of being a laggard in fighting climate change.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the price of the technology would reduce in time and offered no subsidies to buyers of electric cars.

"The costs of technology are coming down, and that means the choices available to Australians and right around the world are becoming more accessible, so our plans are all about supporting those choices," Morrison said.

"Our plans aren't about sending a lot of taxpayers' money off to big multinationals to get costs down. They'll do that themselves. They've a keen interest in doing that," he added.

The 250 million Australian dollar ($185 million) plan would partner with private enterprise to accelerate the rollout of 50,000 charging and hydrogen refueling stations.

The conservative government expects that would result in 30% of new passenger and light commercial truck sales in Australia being battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric by 2030.

Less than 2% of new vehicles sold in Australia are electric, and the transport sector is a major reason why Australia, on a per capita basis, is one of the world's worst greenhouse gas emitters.

Electric vehicle groups expressed disappointment at the policy.

Electric Vehicles Council chief executive Behyad Jafari, an advocate for the electric vehicle industry in Australia, described the policy as a "fizzer" that lacked initiatives to boost uptake.

The opposition center-left Labor Party went to the last election in 2019 with a target of 50% of new cars being electric by 2030.

Morrison argued at the time that Labor's policy would "end the weekend" because electric vehicles could not tow boats and caravans or replace SUVs.

Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese said if Labor wins elections due by May, his government would make electric vehicles cheaper by reducing taxes on them.

Fed: Risks to US financial system ease as economy recovers

NEW YORK (AP)—The risks to the U.S. financial system have eased significantly compared to a year earlier, the Federal Reserve said Monday.

The central bank noted that as the economy recovers from the pandemic-driven recession, the balance sheets of individual Americans and businesses continue to strengthen.

However, the Fed did cite the significant rise in asset prices—most notably home and stock prices—as well as the rise of volatile trading of so-called "meme" stocks as potential risks to the financial system.

There is also the risk that the coronavirus pandemic could worsen again, which would in turn impact stock prices and exacerbate the supply-chain problems rippling throughout the global economy, the Fed said.

"Despite recent improvements, an increase in uncertainty over the course of the pandemic might pose risks to asset markets, financial institutions, and borrowers in the United States and globally," the Fed said.

The observations came in the Fed's semiannual Financial Stability Report on trends going on in both trading, investing as well as broad economic issues. The report is not an economic forecast, nor does it try to predict the next risk to the financial system. But it does attempt to highlight areas of concern to central bankers.

Overall the financial system is in better shape than it was a year ago and even six months ago, the Fed said. Borrowing by individual Americans and businesses continues to trend back to pre-pandemic levels. Low interest rates have made handling higher levels of debt easier. Banks are reporting record profits and their balance sheets are nearly back to where they were before the pandemic.

The Fed did note the rise in asset prices from a year earlier, and how prices for assets ranging from stocks to homes are at levels above historic norms. The central bank said in its report that it has not seen a decrease in credit quality for mortgages, however, which was the cause of financial crisis of 2008 and Great Recession.

Musk: I'll sell 10% of Tesla stock based on Twitter poll

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—Tesla shares closed Monday down nearly 5% after CEO Elon Musk said he would sell 10% of his holdings in the electric car maker—more than $20 billion worth by most calculations—based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter over the weekend.

According to analyst Daniel Ives of Wedbush Securities, Musk owns about 23% of Tesla's stock and has about $10 billion in taxes coming due on stock options that vest next summer.

Much of Musk's wealth is held in shares of Tesla, which does not pay him a cash salary.

"I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," Musk tweeted.

Many on Wall Street assumed Musk would be selling closer to 5% of his stake, Ives said, but even doubling that number doesn't cause him or his firm great concern. Ives said better to "rip the Band-Aid off now" and avoid speculation.

"Tesla remains in pole position to drive this EV adoption curve to the next level both domestically and globally with Musk & Co. leading the way," Ives wrote in a note to clients.

Tesla has been on a roll. As of Friday, the shares had gained more than 40% since last month when the company announced a record profit for the third quarter. Last week, Tesla shares hit an all-time closing high of $1,229,91 per share. It's the most valuable car maker in the world with a market capitalization of more than $1 trillion. The stock fell 4.8% Monday to $1,162.94. It is still up nearly 65% for the year.

The sometimes abrasive and unpredictable Musk, whose net worth is around $300 billion, said he proposed selling the stock as some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares. However, the wording on unrealized gains, also called a "billionaires tax," was removed from President Joe Biden's budget, which is still being negotiated.

Nation

Natalia Abrahao is lifted up by her fiancé Mark Ogertsehnig as they greet one another at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. AP

Dual U.S.-Canadian citizen Traysi Spring, right, and her American husband Tom Bakken, hold a homemade sign to welcome people heading into the U.S. from Canada Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, in Blaine, Wash. AP

People applaud and take pictures as MaKensi Kastl greets her boyfriend, Thierry Coudassot, after he arrived from France at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. AP

Performers entertain passengers at London Heathrow Airport's T3 as the US reopens its borders to UK visitors in a significant boost to the travel sector, in London, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. AP

US reopens to international travel, allows happy reunions

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Parents held children born while they were stuck abroad. Long-separated couples kissed, and grandparents embraced grandchildren who had doubled in age.

The U.S. fully reopened to many vaccinated international travelers Monday, allowing families and friends to reunite for the first time since the coronavirus emerged and offering a boost to the travel industry decimated by the pandemic. The restrictions closed the U.S. to millions of people for 20 months.

Octavio Alvarez and his 14-year-old daughter zipped through a pedestrian crossing in San Diego in less than 15 minutes on their way to visit his mother-in-law in California.

"It's a big feeling," said Alvarez, 43, who lives in Ensenada, Mexico, a two-hour drive from San Diego. Prior to the pandemic, his family would visit California twice a month. The emotional cost of the border restrictions were "very high," he added.

American citizens and permanent residents were always allowed to enter the U.S., but the travel bans grounded tourists, thwarted business travelers and often keep families far apart. Travelers must have proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test.

"I think a lot of people have been waiting for this day," said Eileen Bigelow, area port director for Vermont for Customs and Border Protection. "They look at it as a light at the end of the tunnel for some return of normalcy."

There were lots of prolonged hugs at airports from coast to coast. At Newark International Airport in New Jersey, Nirmit Shelat repeatedly embraced his girlfriend, Jolly Dave, after she arrived from India, ending their nine-month separation. She was on the first flight out of the country to the United States.

"I can't even explain in my words how happy I am," Dave said.

Gaye Camara, who lives in France, last saw her husband in New York in January 2020, not knowing it would be 21 months before they could hold each other again.

"I'm going to jump into his arms, kiss him, touch him," said Camara, 40, as she wheeled her luggage through Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport, where the humming crowds resembled those before the pandemic, except for the face masks.

On the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada, where traveling back and forth was a way of life before the pandemic, the reopening brought relief. Malls, restaurants and shops in U.S. border towns were devastated by the lack of visitors from Mexico.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, flanked by U.S. and Mexican officials at a celebratory news conference at the San Ysidro crossing, said the economic losses were hefty and the cutting of family ties "immeasurable."

Retail sales in San Ysidro fell about 75% from pre-COVID levels, forcing nearly 300 businesses to close.

Edith Aguirre of Tijuana took off work to go shopping in San Diego. Bubbling with laughter, she accepted a gift bag from a duty-free store at the San Diego border crossing. She was a regular at SeaWorld in San Diego and last came to the U.S. to celebrate her 50th birthday at Disneyland in February 2020.

"It was very draining," she said of the interruption to her cross-border life.

Sales dropped in half at David's Western Wear shop in Nogales, Arizona, which manufactures boots popular among Mexicans.

Owner David Moore hopes his specialty products lure back customers, but he said it won't happen overnight. Many Mexicans are still trying to get expired visas renewed amid a backlog. Those who do come may be disappointed to find shelves empty because of supply chain problems.

"I really don't think Mexican shoppers are going to come across in hordes because they have now gotten used to buying a lot of products they need in Mexico," he said.

David Jerome, president and CEO of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce on Mexico's border in Texas, said: "It won't come back as quickly as it was shut off."

Still, "we feel like we're getting our neighbors back and we're glad to get people going back to work," Jerome said.

Along Canada's boundary, cross-border hockey rivalries were upended by the travel restrictions. Churches that had members on both sides of the border were suddenly cut off from each other.

But on Monday, border traffic quickly returned.

At Vermont's busiest international crossing with Canada, U.S. border agents said they began to notice the uptick in border crossing shortly after midnight. By mid-morning, traffic appeared steady.

Travelers at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, New York, one of the northern border's busiest crossings, found a 2½-hour wait at 2 a.m., officials said, though within a few hours traffic was flowing more freely. The bridge typically handles about 2 million passenger vehicles from Fort Erie, Ontario, yearly, many of them bound for the region's shopping malls, ski slopes and sporting events. Volume dropped by more than 90% during the pandemic.

River Robinson's American partner wasn't able to be in Canada for the birth of their baby boy 17 months ago. She was thrilled to hear about the U.S. reopening and planned to take the child to the U.S. for Thanksgiving.

It's "crazy to think he has a whole other side of the family he hasn't even met yet," said Robinson, who lives in St. Thomas, Ontario.

Airlines are preparing for a surge in activity—especially from Europe—after the pandemic and resulting restrictions caused international travel to plunge.

The 28 European countries that were barred made up 37% of overseas visitors in 2019, according to the U.S. Travel Association. As the reopening takes effect, carriers are increasing flights between the United Kingdom and the U.S. by 21% this month over last month, according to data from travel and analytics firm Cirium.

In a sign of the huge importance of trans-Atlantic travel for airlines, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic celebrated the reopening by synchronizing the departures of their early morning flights to New York on parallel runways at London's Heathrow Airport.

Maria Giribet, 74, who lives on the Mediterranean isle of Majorca was headed to San Francisco where she planned to "suffocate" her twin grandchildren with hugs after missing half their lives. Gabriel and David are now 3½.

The U.S. will accept travelers who have been fully vaccinated with any of the shots approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization, not just those in use in the U.S. That's a relief for many in Canada, where the AstraZeneca vaccine is widely used.

But millions of people around the world who were vaccinated with Russia's Sputnik V, China's CanSino or other shots not approved by the WHO will not be able to travel to the U.S.

Testing and quarantine requirements remained obstacles for others. A mobile testing truck was parked near the Peace Bridge in New York, promising results in 30 minutes for $225 and next-day results for $160.

Marcela Picone, 39, of the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville, has been waiting for the day her fiancé and father of her 2- and 3-year-old children can visit from Stoney Creek, Ontario. But his 15-year-old son would have to miss school to quarantine upon their return if they traveled.

"He's a dad to two American kids," she said. "He should have had the right to come into this country the entire 19 months."

Feds urge schools to provide COVID-19 shots, info for kids

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is encouraging local school districts to host clinics to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to kids and information to parents on the benefits of the shots as the White House looks to speedily provide vaccines to those ages 5 to 11.

First lady Jill Biden and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy visited the Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, Virginia, on Monday to launch a nationwide campaign to promote child vaccinations. The school was the first to administer the polio vaccine in 1954.

The visit came just days after federal regulators recommended the COVID-19 vaccine for the age group. The White House says the first lady will visit pediatric vaccination clinics across the country over the coming weeks to encourage the shots.

"The vaccine is the best way to protect your children against COVID-19," she told parents in the school's cafeteria, after touring a clinic in the gymnasium that vaccinated 260 students. "It's been thoroughly reviewed and rigorously tested. It's safe. It's free. And it's available for every child in this country, five and up."

At the same time, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Education Secretary Miguel Cardona are sending a letter to school districts across the country calling on them to organize vaccine clinics for their newly eligible students. The officials are reminding school districts that they can tap into billions of dollars in federal coronavirus relief money to support pediatric vaccination efforts.

SpaceX returns 4 astronauts to Earth, ending 200-day flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Four astronauts returned to Earth on Monday, riding home with SpaceX to end a 200-day space station mission that began last spring.

Their capsule streaked through the late night sky like a dazzling meteor before parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida. Recovery boats quickly moved in with spotlights.

"On behalf of SpaceX, welcome home to Planet Earth," SpaceX Mission Control radioed from Southern California. Within an hour, all four astronauts were out of the capsule, exchanging fist bumps with the team on the recovery ship.

Their homecoming—coming just eight hours after leaving the International Space Station—paved the way for SpaceX's launch of their four replacements as early as Wednesday night.

The newcomers were scheduled to launch first, but NASA switched the order because of bad weather and an astronaut's undisclosed medical condition. The welcoming duties will now fall to the lone American and two Russians left behind at the space station.

Before Monday afternoon's undocking, German astronaut Matthias Maurer, who's waiting to launch at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, tweeted it was a shame the two crews wouldn't overlap at the space station but "we trust you'll leave everything nice and tidy." His will be SpaceX's fourth crew flight for NASA in just 1 1/2 years.

Asia

In this photo released by the Chin Human Rights Organization, fires burn in the town of Thantlang in Myanmar's northwestern state of Chin, on Friday Oct. 29, 2021. AP

'Life-saving aid is needed by 3 million in Myanmar'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief urged Myanmar's military leaders on Monday to provide unimpeded access to the more than 3 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance since government forces seized power on Feb. 1 "because of growing conflict and insecurity, COVID-19 and a failing economy."

Martin Griffiths warned that without an end to violence and a peaceful resolution of Myanmar's crisis, "this number will only rise."

He also urged donors to respond to the U.N. appeal, saying less than half of the $385 million required has been raised since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Monday was the first anniversary of the 2020 elections in Myanmar, which "were deemed free and fair by domestic and international observers," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. They were won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party with approximately 80% of the elected seats in the upper and lower houses of Parliament. The military rejects the results, claiming the vote was fraudulent.

"The United Nations reiterates its call on the military to respect the will of the people and put the country back on track to democratic transition," Dujarric said, stressing that the U.N. remains "gravely concerned about the intensifying violence in Myanmar" and again urges unimpeded humanitarian access.

ASIA BRIEFS

Fire in Indian hospital kills 4 infants, 36 rescued

NEW DELHI (AP) — A fire swept through a newborn care unit in a hospital in central India, killing four infants, officials said. An investigation was ordered into the fire that occurred Monday night at the Kamla Nehru Children's Hospital in Bhopal, said Shivraj Singh Chauhan, the chief minister in Madhya Pradesh state. There were 40 children in total in the unit, out of which 36 have been rescued, said Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang. He said he arrived at the hospital within 10 minutes after the incident and that everything was now under control. While an inquiry is still ongoing, authorities told the Press Trust of India news agency that a short circuit may have caused the fire.

Pakistan announces 1-month cease-fire with Pakistani Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani authorities Monday announced a month-long cease-fire with a key militant group behind numerous attacks on security forces and civilians over the last 14 years. Government spokesman Fawad Chaudhry said on Twitter that the Taliban government in Afghanistan helped facilitate the cease-fire between the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. In a statement, TTP spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani confirmed the cease-fire beginning Nov. 9 will remain in place until Dec. 9, during which both sides will form a committee to continue talks. He said both sides will adhere to the cease-fire.

China's Xi lays way for third term in power at party meeting

BEIJING (AP)—China's leader Xi Jinping appears to be laying the foundation for a third term in power as top officials of the all-powerful Communist Party meet this week in Beijing. The official Xinhua News Agency said president and party General Secretary Xi issued a draft resolution on the party's "major achievements and historical experience" at the Central Committee's plenary session that opened on Monday. Scholars say that will mark the party's third major statement on its 100-year history, shoring up Xi's status as an equal to founder of the Chinese People's Republic Mao Zedong and his successor Deng Xiaoping, who oversaw crucial economic reforms.

Japan had no COVID-19 deaths 1st time in 15 months

TOKYO (AP)—Japan reported no daily deaths from COVID-19 on Sunday for the first time in 15 months, as infections decline rapidly in the country. Health officials on Monday said there were no deaths the previous day, giving Japan a total of 18,310 fatalities since the pandemic began. Japan on Monday also eased entry restrictions for foreign students, workers and short-term business travelers who are fully vaccinated, have their activity plans guaranteed by sponsors and observe 10 days of self-isolation. Self-quarantine for Japanese citizens and foreign residents was also shortened to three days from the previous 10 days. The last time Japan reported no new coronavirus deaths was on Aug. 2, 2020, according to the ministry.

World

Migrants aided by Belarus try to storm Polish border

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Hundreds if not thousands of migrants sought to storm the border from Belarus into Poland on Monday, cutting razor wire fences and using branches to try and climb over them. The siege escalated a crisis along the European Union's eastern border that has been simmering for months.

Poland's interior ministry said it had rebuffed the illegal invasion and claimed the situation was under control. The Defense Ministry posted a video showing an armed Polish officer using a chemical spray through a fence at men who were trying to cut the razor wire. Some migrants threw objects at police. Video footage from Belarusian media showed people using long wooden poles or branches to try to get past a border fence as police helicopters circled overhead.

Defense Ministry video taken later Monday showed the migrants settling in for the night by the border, having put up scores of tents and cooking meals.

"A coordinated attempt to massively enter the territory of the Republic of Poland by migrants used by Belarus for the hybrid attacks against Poland has just begun," a spokesman for Poland's security forces, Stanislaw Zaryn, said in a statement.

Noting that it's also NATO's eastern border, Zaryn stressed that the "large groups of migrants ... are fully controlled by the Belarusian security services and army." He accused Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of acting to destabilize Poland and other EU countries to pressure the bloc into dropping its sanctions on Minsk. Those sanctions were put into place after Belarus cracked down brutally on democracy protests.

Piotr Mueller, Poland's government spokesperson, said 3,000 to 4,000 migrants were next to the Polish border on the Belarusian side.

Polish border officials said the border crossing in Kuznica, in the northeast, will be closed early Tuesday.

People fleeing Ethiopia allege attacks, forced conscription

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A new round of deadly attacks and forced conscription has begun against ethnic Tigrayans in an area of Ethiopia now controlled by Amhara regional authorities in collaboration with soldiers from neighboring Eritrea, people fleeing over the border to Sudan tell The Associated Press as the yearlong war intensifies.

Urgent diplomatic meetings with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Tigray leader Debretsion Gebremichael in an attempt to calm the fighting have found a small "window of opportunity" as the rival sides agreed a political solution through dialogue was required, African Union envoy Olesegun Obasanjo said in briefings Monday. The State Department said U.S. envoy Jeffrey Feltman saw a window to act with Obasanjo and was meeting with him in Ethiopia's capital Monday night.

Tigray forces have been approaching Addis Ababa to press the prime minister to step aside, leading Ethiopia's government to declare a state of emergency last week while the U.S. and other countries urged citizens to leave immediately. The war has killed thousands after political tensions with the Tigray forces who once dominated the national government turned deadly.

Those fleeing the western Tigray communities of Adebay and Humera in the past week described warnings from Amhara authorities against supporting the Tigray forces.

UK opens probe on mortuary abuse

LONDON (AP)—The British government announced Monday that it would launch an independent inquiry into how a hospital electrician was able to sexually abuse at least 100 corpses in hospital mortuaries.

David Fuller, 67, admitted last week during his trial at Maidstone Crown Court that he murdered two women in 1987. Prosecutors said he had sexually assaulted the two women after killing them.

Police searches of Fuller's home to gather evidence in connection with the deaths uncovered around four million images of sexual abuse that included video recordings of him abusing bodies over 12 years at two hospitals in southeast England.

"Officers have tragically found evidence of 100 victims," Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers while announcing the inquiry into how Fuller was able to go undetected.

Of these victims, Javid said 81 have been formally identified, and specially trained family officers are supporting their families. Every family of a known victim has been contacted, he added.

"The inquiry will look into the circumstances surrounding the offenses committed at the hospital, and their national implications," said Javid, who apologized to the friends and family of the victims.

Javid said the inquiry's structure will be published in "due course" and that the chairman, named as experienced National Health Service executive Jonathan Michael, will hold talks with the families of the abused. Javid also said the government will look at whether the penalties for such "appalling" sexual offenses are appropriate.

Fuller pleaded guilty on Thursday to murdering Wendy Knell, 25, and Caroline Pierce, 20, in two separate attacks in the town of Tunbridge Wells in 1987. He had previously admitted to sexually abusing bodies in two hospital morgues over 12 years from 2008. Identified victims included three children and others older than 85.

He filmed himself carrying out the attacks at mortuaries inside the now-closed Kent and Sussex Hospital and the Tunbridge Wells Hospital, in Pembury, where he worked in electrical maintenance roles since 1989.

Having evaded justice for 33 years, Fuller was arrested for murder in December following new analysis of decades-old DNA evidence.

Hospitals have been asked to urgently review practices on effective CCTV coverage, with all entry and access points controlled by swipe access, risk assessments and appropriate security checks.

Javid said the inquiry will be split into two parts, with an interim report published early next year and a final report looking at the broader national picture and the wider lessons for the NHS.

"This is a profoundly upsetting case that has involved distressing offenses within the health service," said Javid. "The victims are not just those family members and friends who have been abused in this most horrific of ways, they are also those that are left behind."

Good Housekeeping

How to infuse a **midcentury modern chic vibe** into your home

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

The pairing of walnut and black creates an instant mid-century vibe in this living room. SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

Midcentury modern design remains both hip and classic. From walnut wood finishes, rich leather and brass accents, this timeless style is more popular than ever. From internet and flea market finds to classics that have been passed down through the generations, here are some tips on how to infuse a midcentury vibe into your home decor.

1 Group similarly styled midcentury modern-inspired pieces in the same room. Creating furniture vignettes will help instantly infuse a space with a midcentury modern vibe.

2 Look for walnut and other warm wood pieces. This finish is a signature of midcentury modern furniture.

3 Consider leather for primary pieces. Leather is a hallmark of midcentury design and is also durable and timeless.

4 Purchase select midcentury modern inspiration or foundation pieces to help anchor a space such as sideboards and consoles.

5 Create a midcentury-inspired focal point in aroom. This can be anything from a selection of art, wall hanging or piece of furniture such as a sofa or chair.

DINNER FOR ONE

Creamy Sweet Potato Soup

By MARY BILYEU
THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO

If sweet potato soup doesn't say "autumn," I don't know what does.

Well, pumpkin spice does. Jewel-toned leaves and apple cider do. So does football.

But you know what I mean.

This is a soup that could be served year-'round, due to the accessibility of its components. But it's just so perfectly suited to fall with its gorgeous orange color, its Thanksgiving-y starring ingredient (which is roasted—a cool-weather cooking style vs. summer grilling), and the fact that it's a soup, which we eat so much more often at this time of year.

The inherent sweetness gets perked up with both the heat of drizzled barbecue sauce and the smokiness of a West African-inspired peanut-spice blend.

This cozy comfort in a bowl is a perfect fall dinner for one very important person: You.

Spice blend:

1 tablespoon finely chopped peanuts

Dashes to taste of onion powder, garlic powder, smoked paprika, and white pepper

Soup:

1 small roasted sweet potato
1 cup vegetable stock
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Splash of half-and-half

Garnish:

Barbecue sauce

Make the spice blend by combining all of the ingredients.

Make the soup: Scoop the flesh from the sweet potato and mash it in a small saucepan. Slowly whisk in the stock with pinches of salt and pepper until smooth. (Use an immersion blender if you want it puréed.) Cook over medium heat until warmed through and just starting to bubble, then whisk in the half-and-half.

Pour the soup into a bowl, drizzle with some barbecue sauce, then sprinkle with some of the spice blend.

Yield: 1 serving

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
(C) 2021 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ You can cut the bitterness in some varieties of greens by soaking them in ice water for roughly an hour before serving. Use a salad spinner to get all of the water off.

■ "Place an ice cube (or ice chips) in carpet divots left behind by furniture legs. This will help the fibers "plump up," and the spot will disappear!"—A.I. in Utah

■ Remove the annoying sticky residue from price tags with WD-40 or baby oil. This is for use on hard surfaces only. If you are unsure, test in an inconspicuous spot first to make sure the oil doesn't leave a stain where the tag was.

■ "To help repel the dust on baseboards between cleanings, wipe with a used dryer sheet. To make this even easier, you can put the dryer sheet over a Swiffer-type floor cleaner. This way, you don't even have to bend down."—M.E. in Alabama

■ Felt circles are great for putting under small appliances on the kitchen counter. They are easier to move around, and they won't scratch the countertops. You can find them at the hardware store, or make your own by cutting out what you need from a piece of felt and attaching it to the bottom of your appliance with double-stick tape ... or even a drop of glue!

■ Running a washing machine that isn't full not only wastes energy and water, it also wastes money because you're paying to run more washes. Always fill the machine—but remember not to overload it! This applies to your dishwasher, too.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Life & Style

With victims ID'd, many questions remain in Houston tragedy

HOUSTON (AP)—When rapper Travis Scott's sold-out concert in Houston became a deadly scene of panic and danger in the surging crowd, Edgar Acosta began worrying about his son, who wasn't answering his phone.

He called hospitals and police, who told him his son was not on the list of victims from the Astroworld festival. They were wrong: Axel Acosta Avila, 21, was among the eight people who died Friday night at the outdoor festival that was attended by some 50,000 people and is now the focus of a criminal investigation.

On Monday, authorities released the names of the dead as they continued looking into what went wrong when a crush of fans pressed forward after Scott took the stage. Houston's police chief said Monday he had met with Scott before the rapper's performance on Friday about safety concerns but did not elaborate about what, specifically, concerned him.

"They told me, Mr. Acosta, your son is not on the list so you don't have to worry about anything. He's not on the list of dead people or injured people" said Edgar Acosta, whose family is among those suing organizers of the festival.

"I told them, 'Well, he didn't spend the night at his hotel, so I'm worried about him.'"

Houston police and fire department investigators have said they would review video taken by concert promoter Live Nation, as well as dozens of clips from people at the show that were widely shared on social media. Investigators also planned to speak with Live Nation representatives, Scott and concertgoers.

Live Nation said in a statement Monday that it has provided authorities with all footage from surveillance cameras at the festival, and that it had paused removing equipment at the request of investigators who were walking the grounds. The promoter said full refunds would be offered to all attendees.

Scott's scheduled appearance at the Day N Vegas Festival in Las Vegas this weekend was canceled, according to a Scott representative who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Scott, who founded the Astroworld festival, said he would cover funeral costs for the victims. The dead were between the ages of 14 and 27 and were from Texas, Illinois and Washington, according to Harris County authorities. They included high schoolers, an aspiring Border Patrol agent and a computer science student.

A view of the Vatican Apostolic Library, Monday, Nov. 8, 202, during the presentation to the media of the exhibition "Tutti" (All). The exhibition runs through Feb. 22, 2022 and takes its inspiration from Pope Francis' 2020 encyclical "Brothers All" which combines his appeals for environmental sustainability, greater human fraternity and a more just socio-economic order in the post-COVID world.
AP PHOTO/NICOLE WINFIELD

Vatican Library opens to public with old-new art space

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican's Apostolic Library, which is home to ancient manuscripts, rare books and reading rooms for scholars is opening its doors to the general public with a small new exhibition space aimed at pairing its artistic treasures with contemporary art.

The inaugural exhibit "Tutti" (All) takes its inspiration from Pope Francis' 2020 encyclical "Brothers All" which combines his appeals for environmental sustainability, greater human fraternity and a more just socio-economic order in the post-COVID world.

Rome artist Pietro Ruffo, for whom maps and migration are regular themes, was invited to design a site-specific exhibit in one of the Library's halls, which he transformed into a tropical forest. In another room, Ruffo designed a contemporary version of one of the Library's ancient maps of the Nile with the two running side-by-side in a glass case.

Inaugurating the new space last week, Francis said the world was in need of new maps after COVID-19.

"In this epochal change that the pandemic has accelerated, humanity needs new maps to discover the sense of fraternity, of friendship and the common good," he said. "We need a new beauty, that isn't the usual reflection of power of some but a courageous mosaic of everyone's diversity."

Ye's Yeezy pays nearly $1M to settle slow-shipping lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper and fashion mogul Ye's high-end clothing company Yeezy agreed Monday to pay $950,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by four California district attorneys over slow shipping to customers.

The suit brought last month by the district attorneys of Los Angeles, Sonoma, Napa and Alameda counties alleged that Yeezy had engaged in false advertising about its shipping and had violated state law by failing to send online orders within 30 days.

Ye

Last month, a judge approved a request from the artist formerly known as Kanye West legally changed his name to Ye.

He designs and sells sneakers under the Yeezy brand in collaboration with Adidas. The company also makes and sells clothes. Adidas was not named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

An email sent seeking comment from Yeezy was not immediately returned.

The settlement includes $800,000 in civil penalties to the district attorneys offices, $50,000 in restitution to a state consumer protection fund, and $100,000 in investigative costs.

Richard Madden, Salma Hayek support 'Eternals' love scene

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marvel's new film "Eternals" broke the mold in an area the studio has conspicuously avoided for years: Sex between superheroes.

It's the first time in 26 Marvel cinematic universe films that an intimate conjugal moment was visibly shown between two characters. The scene—depicted by Oscar-winning director Chloé Zhao—already captured headlines before the film's theatrical release Friday.

But Richard Madden, who stars as Ikaris, said any headline focused on superhero sex is "just kind of crass." He calls the love scene involving his character and Gemma Chan's Sersi an "intimate moment."

"We're trying to tell a love story and we're trying to show an intimacy and a delicacy of people that have been together for many, many years," said Madden about their characters, who fell in love thousands of years ago during the Babylonian Empire. He said the scene marked a "huge part of the start of their relationship."

The couple are members of a race of immortal beings who have spent 7,000 years on Earth defending the world from rivals known as Deviants.

"It's a beautiful insight into this world," he continued. "And you know, in our heads as actors, I can think it's very much less about superheroes doing this thing and more about two characters sharing an intimate moment." The film won the weekend box office, earning $71 million domestically, but has divided critics and audiences more than any previous Marvel Studios film.

Sexually suggestive scenes have not been shown in previous Marvel projects—especially since most of those films draw kid viewers. There was a one-night stand between Tony Stark and a journalist in 2008's "Iron Man," but nothing risque was shown.

Holidays are a prime time to wield the written word

DEAR ABBY: You often respond to grandparents who are disappointed that their grandchildren have not written a note to express gratitude for a recent present. Personally, I think one of the main reasons they don't is the simple fact that they lack thank-you cards and stamps. (Their parents may not be writing thank-you notes anymore.) When I'm at the post office, I rarely see 20-year-olds buying stamps.

I would like to offer a suggestion for my peers: If you want your grandchildren to send you a thank-you card, make it simple for them—include a small box of cards and some postage stamps when you send their present. They'll get the message. And Abby, they could add a copy of your letter writing booklet if it's still available.

THANKFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR THANKFUL: Your suggestion is a clever one, and yes, my booklet, "How To Write Letters for All Occasions" is still available. People of every age tend to procrastinate when it comes to letter writing because they're unsure how to express their feelings on paper and afraid they will say the wrong thing.

Thank-you notes do not have to be long or flowery. In fact, the opposite is true. Short and to the point is more effective. I advise readers to have a notebook handy when they open their gifts and jot down the first words that come to mind when they see what's inside. Do they like the color? The style? Is it something they have been wanting? Write it down and use it for inspiration.

My booklet, "How to write Letters for All Occasions" contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts, wedding gifts and those that arrive around holiday time. It also includes sample letters of congratulations, as well as ones on difficult subjects, such as the loss of a parent, spouse or a child. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

With the holidays just around the corner, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten note or letter, or a well-written email. For anyone who has wondered where to begin when expressing gratitude, congratulations, condolences, composing a love letter or announcing a broken engagement or a divorce—"How To Write Letters" is a handy guide.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 25-year-old man who has never had a girlfriend. Recently, a woman I work with seems to be showing an interest in me. She's the same age as I am. I might feel the same way about her, but she mentioned that she's going through a divorce. Is it worth asking for her number to see where things go?

HOPING IN THE HEARTLAND

DEAR HOPING: Proceed with caution. You can ask for her number, but take things very slowly. She may need a friend right now more than a romance. Also, much depends upon the fraternization policies in your workplace. Sometimes these relationships are frowned upon, which could cost one or both of you your jobs.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

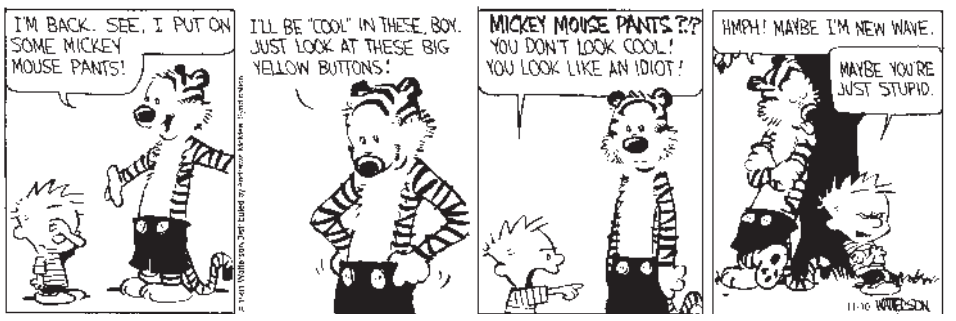
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M BACK. SEE, I PUT ON SOME MICKEY MOUSE PANTS!
I'LL BE "COOL" IN THESE, BOY. JUST LOOK AT THESE BIG YELLOW BUTTONS!
MICKEY MOUSE PANTS ?!? YOU DON'T LOOK COOL! YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT!
HMPH! MAYBE I'M NEW WAVE.
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST STUPID.
11-10 WATTERSON

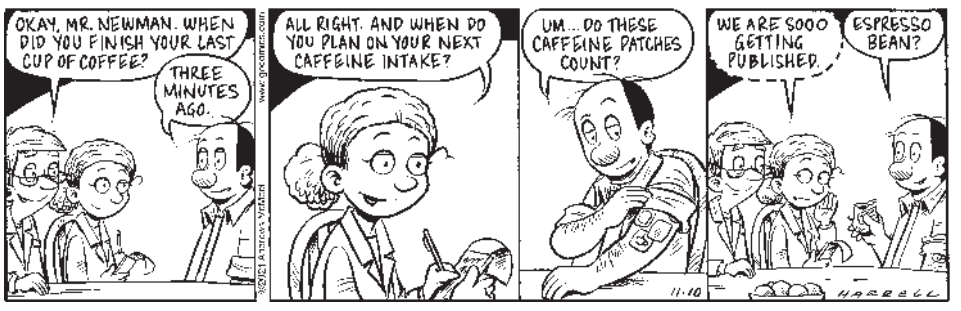
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"DEAR ASK A DOG, WHAT WAS THE GREATEST MOVIE EVER MADE?"
BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!
COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN "THE ONE WITH THE DOG"?
JIM DAVIS 11-10

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, MR. NEWMAN. WHEN DID YOU FINISH YOUR LAST CUP OF COFFEE?
THREE MINUTES AGO.
ALL RIGHT. AND WHEN DO YOU PLAN ON YOUR NEXT CAFFEINE INTAKE?
UM... DO THESE CAFFEINE PATCHES COUNT?
WE ARE SOOO GETTING PUBLISHED.
ESPRESSO BEAN?
11-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE SHOULD GO SEE THE FALL COLORS THIS WEEKEND. THE BROWNS, REDS, ORANGES, PURPLES, AND YELLOWS.
WELL, NOT THE YELLOW CURRENTLY ON THE HALLWAY CARPET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 LPs' successors
4 Sharp tooth
8 Logical
12 Tin Man's need
13 La Scala solo
14 Goatee's spot
15 Bake sale org.
16 Kid in a blended family
18 Early Mexican
20 — -mo
21 Property claim
24 Word list, for short
28 Wee bit of progress
32 Cupid's realm
33 Galley item
34 Sharapova of tennis
36 Weeding tool
37 Ship's jail
39 Resign
41 Wear
43 Former polit. divisions
44 Be sick
46 Martini garnish
50 Choreographed move
55 Ms. Farrow
56 Bassoon's kin
57 Jason's ship
58 Off-roader (Abbr.)
59 Jewels
60 New Mexico resort
61 Scot's denial

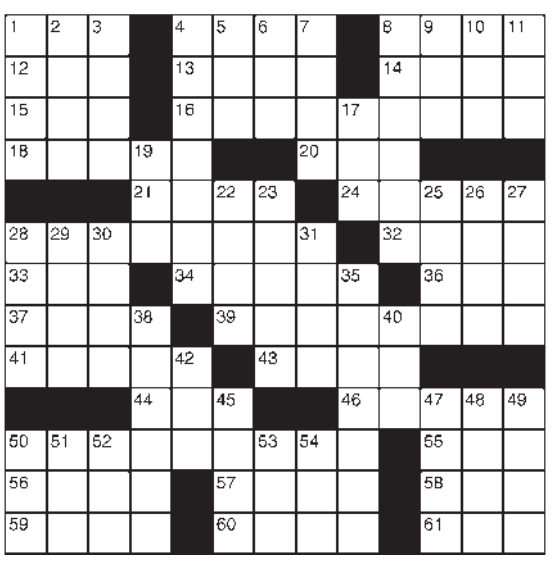
DOWN

1 Nightclub of song
2 Bubblehead
3 Blind part
4 Dictator's ideology
5 Louvre treasures
6 Never, in Bonn
7 Openings
8 Instruct
9 Sushi fish
10 Zero
11 Finale
17 XXXI quintupled
19 English cathedral city
22 JFK guesses
23 "Phooey!"
25 Silver salmon
26 Acknowledge
27 "It's — real!"
28 Short cuts
29 Seniors' org.
30 Vivacity
31 Picnic desserts
35 Relevant
38 Adorns
40 ISP option
42 Dead heat
45 Future atty.'s exam
47 One-named supermodel
48 "La Dolce —"
49 Roof edge
50 Pooch
51 Jurist Fortas
52 — de plume
53 La-la lead-in
54 Swelled head

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	M	E	N	■	D	I	V	A	■	T	I	C
Y	A	L	E	■	A	S	■	F	■	A	I	R
M	A	K	E	I	T	B	I	G	■	L	E	A
■	■	■	S	C	A	N	■	H	O	K	U	M
D	E	C	O	Y	■	■	S	A	H	I	■	■
I	N	O	N	■	V	I	G	N	E	T	T	E
S	T	U	■	S	E	C	T	S	■	D	E	D
C	O	L	L	E	G	E	S	■	G	J	N	G
■	■	D	A	N	A	■	■	P	A	T	S	Y
P	R	I	D	E	■	O	M	E	N	■	■	■
H	A	T	■	G	E	T	I	T	C	O	N	E
A	P	B	■	A	W	O	L	■	H	J	E	S
I	S	E	■	L	E	E	K	■	I	R	A	S

Yesterday's answer 11-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Lambert, 38; Ellen Pompeo, 52; Tracy Morgan, 53; Michael Jai White, 57.

Happy Birthday: Leave nothing to chance. Pore over details and assess situations. Take responsibility for anything you sign off on this year. Budget wisely, and put a financial plan in place to ensure that you maintain the freedom to follow a path that allows you to live life your way. Question beliefs, resolve issues and acquire peace of mind. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 31, 36, 43, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Check in with the people who have helped and offered you the best advice over the years, and you won't be disappointed. A kind word will encourage you to overlook something that will pass by quickly, focus on self-improvement. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Flipping from one thing to another won't get you very far. Consider your best path forward. Evaluate your current situation and your relationship with others, then adjust how you handle your personal and professional affairs. Be a leader, not a follower. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Learn as you go. Ask questions, do your homework and explore new possibilities. What someone suggests may intrigue you, but before you decide to follow someone's lead, consider what's best for you. Focus on your strengths. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Mix business with pleasure, and you'll make headway. Entertain ideas and proposals you encounter, but don't negotiate without taking a closer look. Costs can quickly spin out of control if a strict budget isn't in place. Gather information and consider consequences. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Slow down, rethink your strategy, make plans and surround yourself with people who are stable and receptive. Keep change to a minimum, and work with what you already have on hand. Being stubborn and angry will hold you back. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An open mind will lead to new beginnings. Listen and learn, but don't lose your identity. Add a unique spin to whatever you do, and you'll maintain your voice and gain respect and support. Romance and self-improvement are on the rise. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take responsibility seriously, and you'll gain support. Make suggestions, and compromise if necessary to clear up unfinished business. Take an innovative approach to work, but don't lose sight of your objective. Protect your health in risky environments. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Understanding will help when dealing with others. Say less and listen more. Don't be judgmental if you don't want others to judge you. Play fair, be kind and pay more attention to taking better care of your health, loved ones and goals. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Explore your options, and make intelligent decisions. How you handle your money will determine what you can accomplish. A tight budget will put your mind at ease and give you the wiggle room you need to take advantage of a good deal. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a closer look at the way you present yourself to the world. An update will give you a fresh perspective on what's current. Embrace change at home and work, and you will become a forerunner in your field. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't limit what you can do because of what others suggest or pursue. Make decisions that suit your needs and will help you reach your goals. Keep your feelings to yourself until you are ready to present what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't trust anyone with your money, responsibilities or documents. Step in and do things for yourself to ensure you are happy with the results. Physical fitness and a healthy routine will help you excel. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, unique and insightful. You are protective and adamant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	6			2	1		
2			3		9			7
			8					6
			2					5
			1					9
		3				4		
	8				7			
1					3			
6	5	7	4		2	1	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	2	7	5	9	1	8	3
7	3	1	8	4	2	6	5	9
9	5	8	1	6	3	4	7	2
3	9	4	6	7	8	2	1	5
6	1	5	2	3	4	7	9	8
8	2	7	5	9	1	3	4	6
1	7	9	3	8	6	5	2	4
2	8	6	4	1	5	9	3	7
5	4	3	9	2	7	8	6	1

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT GROWS AND GROWS — Solution: 8 letters

L	N	S	E	K	A	N	S	K	P	L	A	N	T	S
I	A	O	T	H	Y	M	E	R	S	S	S	A	R	G
L	N	V	I	R	I	L	M	P	E	O	P	L	E	U
A	S	T	E	T	P	B	M	C	V	T	W	E	E	D
R	S	L	E	N	C	U	I	I	I	S	S	C	S	M
O	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	S	H	L	U	A	A	N
C	N	S	O	E	E	E	F	H	C	T	R	R	A	A
N	I	K	S	L	S	S	R	F	T	U	R	A	L	I
S	S	E	S	X	D	R	T	E	A	I	S	I	G	B
E	U	E	O	N	E	E	L	N	A	I	L	S	A	I
N	B	L	E	T	O	V	N	G	T	H	I	E	E	H
I	H	R	S	N	Ⓢ	I	E	R	S	B	L	E	V	P
P	T	B	R	I	Ⓐ	N	N	U	O	U	Y	D	O	M
U	O	O	O	M	Ⓖ	U	B	O	H	D	M	S	L	A
L	Y	L	F	R	Ⓔ	T	T	U	B	S	N	A	E	B

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Affection, Algae, Amphibian, Asters, Beans, Buds, Bush, Business, Butterfly, Celery, Chives, Coral, Garden, Garlic, Goldenrod, Grass, Hair, Hibiscus, Hosta, Interest, Kelp, Lavender, Leeks, Lettuce, Lily, Lobster, Love, Lupines, Marriage, Mint, Nails, Onions, People, Phlox, Plants, Sage, Sedum, Seeds, Skin, Snakes, Thyme, Trees, Trend, Universe, Vines, Weed

Yesterday's Answer: Enclosed

Treasuries 23 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Boswell's late field goal lifts Steelers past Bears, 29-27

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Najee Harris (22) celebrates after scoring a touchdown against the Chicago Bears in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, in Pittsburgh. AP

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Mike Tomlin sat down, smiled and let out a sarcastic laugh.

"Had 'em all the way, right?" the longtime Pittsburgh Steelers coach said after his team slipped past Chicago 29-27 on Monday night.

Not exactly.

Not after a 10-point fourth-quarter lead turned into a one-point deficit following a fumble by punt returner Ray-Ray McCloud and a flash of brilliance by Bears rookie quarterback Justin Fields, who put Chicago in front with a 16-yard strike to Darnell Mooney with 1:46 to go.

Steelers rookie tight end Pat Freiermuth hardly seemed rattled. Sure, the Bears had the lead. But the Steelers had Ben Roethlisberger.

"I wasn't nervous at all," said Freiermuth, who caught a pair of touchdown passes. "Ben's been doing this for a long time. We're all confident in each other. I was thinking in my mind when they scored, 'It's too much time (left).'"

And there was.

Roethlisberger guided the Steelers 52 yards in seven plays—abetted by Chicago's 12th penalty of the night—to set up Chris Boswell's 40-yard field goal with 26 seconds left, and Pittsburgh won its fourth straight after a 1-3 start.

"We're finding ways to win the game," Roethlisberger said. "Played well enough. Not great. But offensively speaking, we're just doing enough right now."

Roethlisberger completed 21 of 30 passes for 205 yards and the two scores to Freiermuth while pulling off the 50th game-winning drive and 38th fourth-quarter comeback of his 18-year career. Rookie running back Najee Harris found the end zone for the fifth straight game and Boswell made three field goals—including two from over 50 yards—into the open end at perpetually windy Heinz Field.

"Boz is a serial killer," Steelers defensive end Cam Heyward said. "He's too calm."

Boswell might have been the only one relaxed after the Steelers frittered away a seemingly comfortable lead when McCloud gave the ball up on a punt return midway through the fourth quarter that DeAndre Houston-Carson returned 25 yards for a touchdown to pull the Bears within three.

Things got weird from there. Chicago appeared to get a stop on Pittsburgh's ensuing possession only to have linebacker Cassius Marsh — who spent training camp with the Steelers — get flagged for taunting after sacking Roethlisberger on third down.

Marsh's celebration looked relatively innocuous, though the league has cracked down on any semblance of taunting this season.

"I saw the player, after he made a big play, run toward the bench area of the Pittsburgh Steelers and posture in such a way that I felt he was taunting them," referee Tony Corrente said.

Marsh's teammates came to his defense, with linebacker Roquan Smith calling the penalty "BS." Marsh shrugged his shoulders.

"It's just sad to see stuff like that happen in a close game like that," he said. "It's just rough. I don't want to say too much because you all know how it is."

The call extended Pittsburgh's drive and allowed the Steelers to take a 26-20 lead with 2:52 remaining.

It took Fields all of 66 seconds to put the Bears in front. He took Chicago 75 yards in seven plays, and his strike to Mooney appeared to have the Bears in position to pull off a stunner before Roethlisberger and Boswell came through.

Chicago did get the ball to midfield in the final seconds, but Cairo Santos' 65-yard attempt into the closed end of the stadium was well short. Bears coach Matt Nagy praised Fields' resilience on a night he passed for 291 yards with a touchdown and an interception and ran for 45 more, but it wasn't enough.

"We lost," Nagy said. "This is a team game. That's what our guys care about. And we've got to figure it out."

The victory was the 150th of Tomlin's career, moving him into second place on the franchise's win list behind Chuck Noll. Tomlin passed predecessor Bill Cowher, who joined Noll in the Hall of Fame over the summer.

"I'm just appreciative of the standards that have been set by those that have come before me," said Tomlin, who is in his 15th season. "That standard is inspirational for us. ... I work to do my job and uphold that standard."

Chicago's dozen penalties ran the gamut, from a pass-interference call that set up a Pittsburgh field goal to an illegal block in the second quarter that negated a 1-yard touchdown pass from Fields to Jimmy Graham. The Steelers, by comparison, were flagged six times for 30 yards.

"With 12 penalties, that's too many," Nagy said. "What it does is it pushes you back or gives them free yards. You want to stay away from penalties and I think we need to be better there."

Steelers linebacker T.J. Watt sacked Fields three times to push his season total to 11 1/2. Watt signed a contract in September that made him one of the highest-paid defenders in the league.

"He's well-compensated," Tomlin said with a laugh.

Beijing Olympics get 'gold for repression' in labor report

By STEPHEN WADE
AP SPORTS WRITER

A global trade union body has joined a long list of human-rights advocates in challenging the propriety of China holding the 2022 Winter Olympics, and has singled out the International Olympic Committee for acquiescing in the face of alleged genocide and crimes against humanity reportedly taking place in the host country.

The Belgium-based International Trade Union Confederation issued its report Tuesday—"China: A gold medal for repression"—highlighting human rights violations. It said a copy has been sent to IOC President Thomas Bach.

The alleged abuses include: forced labor, jailing of trade unionists and democracy defenders in Hong Kong, intimidation of the nation's LBGTI community, and repression of ethnic and religious minorities under the pretext of "anti-separatism and counterterrorism."

"We're trying to get the IOC to act on a basic set of principles around human rights," Sharan Burrow, the general secretary of the ITUC, told the Associated Press in an interview.

"We want governments to take a stand in defense of their own athletes' safety, and we want sponsors to actually review their association with the Beijing Winter Olympics," she added. "You've got major companies who are supporting these Olympics who really ought to live up to values that they say they respect, which is fundamental human rights."

Some of the largest sponsors who collectively pay billions to the IOC include household names like Coca-Cola, Airbnb, Visa, Toyota, Alibaba, and Proctor & Gamble.

The ITUC report comes just under three months before the Olympics open on Feb. 4. There have been repeated calls for boycotts, with sponsors and broadcasters targeted, and demands for the IOC to move the Games out of China. Protesters were also detained at a torch lighting ceremony last month in Greece.

Burrow, who grew up in Australia, referenced the position of fellow Australian John Coates, the influential vice president of the IOC and a strong ally of Bach.

"John always puts the Olympics before the issue of human rights," Burrow said. "But we would hope that people like John and many others around the world who live in democratic countries would understand that it's not acceptable simply to treat China as just another nation. ... China can't just operate in the global economy without answering to the crimes they commit. People matter. People have rights."

Previous overtures from activists have been met with mostly silence from the IOC and Chinese organizers who are currently holding test events for the Games.

Enes Kanter, a center with the NBA's Boston Celtics, has been one of the few athletes to speak up about human rights violations in China, the Olympics, and the internment of at least 1 million Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in western China.

Kanter, a Muslim with roots in Turkey, has called Chinese leader Xi Jinping a "brutal dictator" and criticized human rights across a large swath of China.

Celtic games were subsequently blacked out in China, a blow to the NBA which derives millions in income from China.

Using the pandemic as the rationale, organizers and the IOC plan to implement a zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy that will also stifle unfettered media access during the Olympics.

Participants in Beijing will have to be vaccinated to enter—or quarantine for 21 days—and be subject to daily testing. Journalists will be enclosed in a "closed loop" that will limit movement. The measures will be more stringent than protocols for the just-completed Tokyo Olympics, which allowed for free movement across the country after a 14-day quarantine period.

Last week, the Foreign Correspondents Club of China in Beijing published a 31-point list of concerns about media access for the Games.

"Over the last year, the foreign press corps has been continuously stymied in its coverage of Winter Olympic Games preparations, denied attendance at routine events, and prevented from visiting sports venues in China. ... Such behavior fails to uphold the IOC's own Olympic Charter, in which Rule 48 requires the committee take 'all necessary steps in order to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world for the Games.'"

The United States government responded to the statement.

'"We urge PRC officials not to limit freedom of movement and access for journalists, and to ensure that they remain safe and able to report freely, including at the Olympic and the Paralympic Games," State Department spokesman Nick Price said in a scheduled briefing.

Several U.S. senators led by former presidential candidate Mitt Romney have proposed a diplomatic boycott by the United States that would allow U.S. athletes to attend but not U.S. government employees.

Even without a boycott, COVID-19 restrictions will severely limit who enters China.

Faced with criticism for holding the Games in China, the IOC says that it's only business is sports—not politics. The IOC has an observer seat at the United Nations.

IOC President Bach touted his efforts to bring the two Koreas together during 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Earlier this year he visited Hiroshima, using the bombed city to link the IOC to global peace. His supporters often talk of Bach as a candidate for the Nobel Prize.

Bach has said the Olympics have to be "neutral ground" although the Olympic Charter also says the goal is to promote a "peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

Promises of largely unfettered access were granted grudgingly by China for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, under pressure from the IOC. It's 180-degrees different this time.

"In 2022, it (China) does not really care about what the rest of the world thinks about it," Chinese sports historian Xu Guoqi told AP in a recent interview.

"Now it tries its best to tell the world its intentions. If the world does not listen, so be it."

Curry scores 50 points to go with 10 assists in Warriors win

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry's personal shooting coach and passing man, Bruce Fraser, offered some pregame thoughts that worked wonders to get the reigning scoring champion right back in rhythm.

"We kind of talked about certain preparations into my shot, just certain mechanics that he called it even having a little bit more conviction about when it's time to shoot," Curry said. "Just a little seed he planted. I took that into warmups and the rest of the game. He was very timely with those words of wisdom."

Curry scored an NBA season-high 50 points with nine 3-pointers, 10 assists and seven rebounds, almost single-handedly leading the Golden State Warriors past the Atlanta Hawks 127-113 on Monday night.

Oh, yes, Curry sure wanted that 50-spot. And if he wasn't counting, his teammates were committed to getting him there.

"It's always nice," he said. "You never come out with like a certain number in mind. It's just when you get it going, you just keep going."

Only Hall of Famers Wilt Chamberlain and Rick Barry had registered a game with 50 points and 10 assists in Warriors franchise history.

"When he gets going like that, it's a special day," teammate and brother-in-law Damion Lee said.

Curry dominated for long stretches and danced in delight, repeatedly raising his arms in the air to encourage everyone fortunate enough to witness another of his brilliant performances.

He scored Golden State's first 13 points, then 10 straight down the stretch in the third before dishing off for Juan Toscano-Anderson's 3-pointer that made it 102-85 following the Warriors' spectacular, 41-point quarter.

"That was just a stunning performance by Steph," coach Steve Kerr said. "... He was amazing. I want to say I've never seen anything like it but I've been watching it for seven years, so I have seen something like it and still it's just incredible to watch."

Playing to chants of "MVP! MVP!," Curry gave fans a scare with 8:48 left in the first when he jammed his left shoulder. He was examined by the medical staff during a Hawks timeout and could be seen nodding and moving his arms to shake out the shoulder before drawing cheers when he stayed in the game.

Curry notched his 10th career 50-point game and already had 24 points on 7-for-12 shooting by halftime with five 3-pointers.

"It doesn't get old, for sure," Kerr said.

Curry wound up 14 for 28 from the floor and made all 13 of his free throws as the Warriors won their fifth straight. They are holding opponents to 95.8 points during the unbeaten stretch.

Trae Young had 28 points and nine assists in Atlanta's fourth straight loss and sixth in seven.

Jordan Poole added 16 points and Andrew Wiggins 13 for Golden State (9-1) in the second game of a back-to-back, the Warriors' first time playing on consecutive nights so far this season.

The Warriors fell behind 55-40 in the second but got within 65-61 at halftime before their decisive third.

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts toward fans during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in San Francisco, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. AP

Nuggets 113, Heat 96

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 25 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists before the NBA MVP was ejected for violently slamming his shoulder into Markieff Morris, and Denver beat Miami.

Will Barton scored 25 points and Jeff Green, who started in place of an injured Michael Porter Jr., added 13 points for the Nuggets, who held the opposition to under 100 points for the seventh time this season.

Jimmy Butler had 31 points to lead the Heat, and Duncan Robinson had 13.

With 2:39 remaining, Morris elbowed Jokic in the midsection at half court. Jokic retaliated with a hard shove from behind with his upper arm/shoulder that knocked Morris to the floor. Morris rolled in pain as teammates pushed Jokic away. Medical personnel brought a stretcher onto the floor but Morris was able to get up and walk off the floor on his own.

Knicks 103, 76ers 96

In Philadelphia, Julius Randle scored 31 points, including eight straight during a key fourth-quarter stretch, to lead New York over short-handed Philadelphia.

Philadelphia was without four-time All-Star Joel Embiid and three others due to the NBA's health and safety protocols, which are for players who have tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with someone who's tested positive.

RJ Barrett added 15 points for the Knicks, who won their second in the last five. Randle also had 12 rebounds.

Andre Drummond started in place of Embiid, and had 14 points and 25 rebounds. Furkan Korkmaz added 19 points for Philadelphia, which had a six-game win streak snapped.

Bulls 118, Nets 95

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points, Zach LaVine added 24 and Chicago used a 42-point fourth quarter to pull away from Brooklyn.

Rookie Ayo Dosumnu had 15 points and played a key role in the late rally as Chicago snapped a two-game losing streak.

Kevin Durant, who entered as the NBA's leading scorer with a 28.6 average, had 38 points but Brooklyn had its five-game winning streak snapped. LaMarcus Aldridge added 19.

The Nets had played Sunday in Toronto and appeared to run out of gas late.

Grizzlies 125, Timberwolves 118, OT

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant scored 33 points and Brandon Clarke had 20 points and nine rebounds as Memphis put together a furious fourth-quarter rally before defeating Minnesota in overtime.

Memphis trailed by as many as 16 with 7:30 left in regulation but a 21-4 rally erased Minnesota's advantage. The Timberwolves forced OT with a 39-foot 3-pointer banked in by Karl-Anthony Towns as regulation expired.

But Memphis pulled away in the extra period. De'Anthony Melton had 19 points for the Grizzlies, Jaren Jackson Jr. had 14 and Kyle Anderson and Desmond Bane added 12 each.

It was Minnesota's sixth straight loss. D'Angelo Russell, who missed the previous two games with a sprained right ankle, led the Timberwolves with 30 points. Towns had 25 points and 13 rebounds. Anthony Edwards, who entered the game shooting 30% from 3-point range, connected on 4 of 9 from outside the arc and ended up with 27 points.

Suns 109, Kings 104

In Sacramento, Calif., Cameron Payne scored a season-high 24 points in 22 minutes off the bench and Phoenix got help from an overturned call to win its fifth straight game, beating Sacramento.

Devin Booker had 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists for Phoenix. Chris Paul and Mikal Bridges scored 16 apiece.

The Suns led by 21 early in the fourth quarter but the Kings made a late push over the final five minutes.

Harrison Barnes had 26 points and De'Aaron Fox scored 24 for Sacramento.

Mavericks 108, Pelicans 92

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 25 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. and Jalen Brunson added 17 apiece and Dallas overcame a sluggish start to beat New Orleans.

Still without Zion Williamson because of a broken right foot, the Pelicans went up 11 in the first quarter but didn't lead again after the first few minutes of the second quarter in a seventh consecutive loss that dropped them to 1-10.

With Doncic watching to start the fourth, Brunson and Hardaway led a 12-0 run that gave the Mavericks a 93-71 lead. Hardaway was 4 of 5 on 3-pointers as the Mavericks shot better than 50% for a second straight game after starting 2 of 12.

Jonas Valanciunas had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Josh Hart scored a season-high 22 for the Pelicans, who were coming off a 41-point loss to Golden State. New Orleans lost by double figures each time on a four-game trip that matched its longest of the season.

Lakers 126, Hornets 123, OT

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis scored 32 points, Russell Westbrook had his first triple-double with the Lakers and Carmelo Anthony had a season-high 29 points off the bench as Los Angeles defeated the Charlotte Hornets 126-123 in overtime Monday night.

Westbrook notched his 185th career triple-double. Finishing with 17 points and 14 assists, six of his 12 rebounds came in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Davis, who also grabbed 12 rebounds, had six points in overtime, including a pair of free throws that gave Los Angeles a three-point lead with under a minute remaining.

Terry Rozier had a season-high 29 points for Charlotte, while Gordon Hayward added 21 and Miles Bridges had 19. The Hornets' fifth straight loss put a damper on LaMelo Ball's second career triple-double, as the Chino Hills, California, native had 25 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists.

Charlotte had a chance to send it to a second overtime, but Davis partially blocked Terry Rozier's jumper from the corner, and Cody Martin missed a 3-pointer after Bridges got an offensive rebound.

Biden hails NBA's Bucks for championship and activism

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden welcomed the NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks to the White House on Monday, praising team members not just for their achievements on the court, but also for their efforts to promote coronavirus vaccinations and for speaking out after the 2020 police shooting of Jacob Blake sparked protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The Bucks were the first NBA champions to visit the White House in nearly five years, ending a Donald Trump-era hiatus.

"You took a stand for justice and peace in the wake of the Jacob Blake shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and you've gotten people engaged," Biden said. The NBA postponed games in 2020 after the Bucks announced they would not participate in Game 5 of a first-round playoff series as they sought to shed light on what they said were racial injustices facing African-American communities.

The Bucks, led by Giannis Antetokounmpo, seemed genuinely excited to get back to the tradition of NBA champs visiting the White House. Antetokounmpo even posted a video on social media of him practicing his greeting for the president.

Antetokounmpo helped the Bucks end a 50-year drought, bringing home an NBA championship for the first time since Lew Alcindor (the Hall of Famer who later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar after converting to Islam) and Oscar Robertson led the team.

Biden spoke of Antetokounmpo's humble upbringing before he came to fame in the NBA. Antetokounmpo, who was born in Greece to Nigerian immigrants, said after the ceremony he became emotional hearing Biden tell his story. He was also proud that the president highlighted his and his teammates' activism.

"What we did had never happened in sport," he said. "I'm proud of my teammates that we were able to stay in the locker room, talk about it, voice our opinion. ... I was able to take a stand for something I believe in."

The sitting president, regardless of party, often honors major league and some college sports champions with a White House ceremony, typically nonpartisan affairs in which the commander in chief pays tribute to the champs' prowess, poses for photos and comes away with a team jersey.

But the celebratory visits became highly charged during the Trump presidency as many athletes took issue with Trump's policies and rhetoric on policing, immigration and more. Trump, for his part, didn't take kindly to the criticism from athletes or their on-field expressions of political opinion.

RBA goes back to online drills

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rollers Basketball Association already knew what to do when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres suspended all school levels after three students tested positive for COVID-19 last Oct. 28.

RBA founder Joe Diaz quickly suggested to his coaches to cancel regular practices and replace them with dribbling drills their players can do by themselves online. The exercise are based on the dribbling drills program developed by Los Angeles Lakers assistant coach Phil Handy. RBA first implemented online dribbling drills when the CNMI had its first COVID-19 cases in March 2020.

Diaz said RBA coaches Jake Maratita and Matt Iguel (U9), David Apatang (U12), Mike Mercado (U14), and Marlene Lumabi (girls) all gave their thumbs up on his suggestion that they shift their training online through the dribbling skills program.

"I sent our kids this dribbling drills program and they did it at home and sent me their video workout after. We did this to help them stay motivated and positive as well as maintain their physical health and mental health. A lot of our kids if they don't have anything to do they think negatively and become anxious."

The dribbling skills consists of 45-minute sets that RBA players need to do every day, preferably before dinnertime.

"We encourage our younger age groups—U12 and U9—to spend more family time with their moms and dads. So, I asked our players to do it at a later time at 5:30pm," he said.

RBA players appreciated that their practice routine didn't take much of a hit despite the Koblerville Gymnasium—the home of RBA—being closed to adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

Kyna Margareth Sales performs the Phil Handy dribbling drills in this screenshot of her video workout. CONTRIBTED PHOTO

"I was happy to have something to do basketball-related over the suspension of our practices. I was able to go at my own learning pace and repeat the same drills for hours until I got it down and was more comfortable with the drill," said Lana Sunderland, a 15-year-old student at Saipan Southern High School.

Andrea Ramos, also of SSHS, echoed Sunderland's thoughts when the 16-year-old said, "I'm really glad that I was able to have some basketball drills to do while practice is suspended due to the recent community spread. Without it I think I would be struck with boredom."

Lency Sagarino, another Lady Manta Ray, thanked Diaz and the coaches of RBA for coming up with dribbling skills.

"I felt like my coaches took time to show us drills to improve on our skills. The drills are fun and doesn't need much space to do, so I was able to do them at home. I would say the drills helped me get comfortable with handling the ball better," said the 15-year-old.

Marianas High School's Princess Jadeanne Cania said the dribbling skills kept her mind off the rise in COVID-19 cases in the community.

"I was pretty excited to be doing drills regardless of the situation we're enduring at the moment. I'm grateful that our coaches are encouraging the players to keep grinding no matter the circumstance," said the 16-year-old.

Seventeen-year-old Kaia Travilla of Mt. Carmel School said the dribbling skills helped her hone her basketball skills. "I was really glad that our coaches sent us drills to follow so that it can help us improve and gave us a chance to work on individual skills."

Kaeli Pathil, also of MHS, said the basketball drills helped her break her usual routine while cooped up at home.

"I was glad because I was always staying at home doing the usual eat, do my school work, and sleep routine. So when our coach sent us a drill to do at home I was like 'OK, exercise time!' and 'time to burn those calories that I have built up," said the 15-year-old.

Her older sister, 19-year-old Casey, said she didn't mind doing the dribbling drills despite being sore the following day after doing them.

"I watched the video that I recorded of myself I was kind of happy with the results. I could really notice the difference when I did the most basic ball-handling drills compared to the last drill (which combined all the skills together). Though I took a lot of time in between the recording to practice each of the drills to be able to get better and was sore after, but

Lency Sagarino, left, and Andrea Ramos perform the Phil Handy dribbling drills in this screenshot of their video workout. CONTRIBTED PHOTO

I think it was really worth it seeing that I have improved a little on my ball-handling skills," said the Northern Marianas College student.

Kyna Margareth Sales, a 16-year-old junior at MHS, said next to face-to-face practice, the dribbling skills were like mana from heaven.

"I was still more than glad to do these drills at home. Because doing so will have us stay consistent and better our handles for when we get back, especially since basketball season for high school is here and an upcoming bash as well."

SSHS' Angel Ashley Calage said when she heard basketball practices were suspended she was a little upset. She, however, cheered up a bit when told they will be doing online dribbling drills instead.

"I was very much glad because not only will it get me up and moving at home, it can still help me to get better on handling and correcting myself with the drills. Not only that, but to also make me get better and ready for the bash that's happening in December and the upcoming high school basketball season," she said.

Diaz thanked the RBA players for taking on the online dribbling skills with aplomb. He also thanked the parents of RBA players and club's sponsors for their untiring support.

"In behalf of the RBA board and head coaches we would like to thank our RBA parents and our sponsors. Even during these hard times they are still helping our club."

RBA's sponsors include House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Rep. B.J. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan), Sen. Vinson "Vinnie" Sablan (R-Saipan), Sen. Edith Guerrero (D-Saipan), Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Pacific Amusement LLC.

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also enjoy traveling and snowboarding in Japan."

Curiously, it's not his experience in multiple quadrennial events that is the highlight of his athletic career on the islands. Quinn said what tops the cake is when he took part in the 2010 Guam Extreme Adventure Race with close friends Tyce Mister, Yosh Gaboldon, and Mieko Carey.

"There have been so many amazing sports moments in my life, it is hard to single out just one. If I had to narrow it down, it would be the Guam Extreme Adventure Race in 2010, a 24-hour race. It was the GEAR's 10th and final year. The race started at 3am and we pushed ourselves for 18 hours and won the race. It was very emotional because no other team was able to complete the race. We were racing against military teams, younger teams, more experienced teams, yet our teamwork and training won the day," he proudly said.

Quinn has called the CNMI home for the past 30 years and already considers himself an islander.

"It truly is my home. My goal through this whole process has been to get well enough to come home. I miss the people that have become my family abroad. I miss the beautiful sunsets. I miss the amazing people I work with at Marianas Eye Institute. I miss the routine of the life I've enjoyed for so long. Saipan is a special place and I look forward to the day I can return," he said.

Both he and Kanae are currently in Mission Viejo, California as he continues to recuperate.

Quinn also gave kudos to his wife for helping him through his medical journey the past year.

"There's no one I'd rather be with in this foxhole with for this fight than my amazing wife Kanae. She has put her whole life on hold to be by my side and she's done it with such a positive attitude and love. I can't imagine doing this journey without her by my side."

Quinn can't wait to come home and extended his gratitude to friends who have kept him and Kanae in their thoughts.

"Thank you for all your messages of encouragement, for your love, for remembering me in your prayers. You have no idea how much that means to me. In the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, 'I'll be back!'"

JAVIN

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in the short category before taking the overall plum after judges Jonas Barcinas, Dan Chase, and Ferdinand Lagmay gave him 11 total points.

Coming in second in the short category was Jimmy Damatan with Alberto Roberto completing the Top 3.

Okawa, who has competed in the last three editions of the Dee Clayton Classic, said he's happy with the overall title considering there were quite a few competitors who came ready for the show.

Preparing for he Dee Classic entailed about nine months of training and diet to build some lean muscle mass, according to Okawa.

"About a month of cutting/burning fats, while trying to maintain my weight/muscle mass. My diet wasn't as strict. I ate whatever I wanted but didn't eat too much of it. I strictly cut off fat from my diet while only consuming healthy ones. Basically whole foods and processed foods that would help fuel my body. Then I worked out a lot at the gym and as days passed I slowly began to see results and remained consistent."

Working out during COVID-19 also presented some unique challenges. "It was slightly hard at first. But as time passes we all slowly start adapting and work our way around it. In my case it was working out with a facemask which most people find difficult," said Okawa.

He said he took up bodybuilding mainly because he wanted to have a nice body and look different.

"One of bodybuilding's benefits is that once you get a feel of it you will start to feel better about yourself. You begin to feel more energized and less lazy because your body eats the right food it needs. And while you train your body you help decrease your chances of heart disease, joint pain, and other critical illnesses."

Okawa, who is on sabbatical from finishing his accounting degree at Northern Marianas College, is dedicating this victory to the people who motivated and encouraged him.

"You know who you are. And to the people who are starting and wanting to start their physical fitness journey, it all starts with you. Also keep in mind that you are your only competition."

CUP

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games were played over the weekend when the MSL resumed its season after taking a week-long lull as safety measure against the COVID-19 cases in the community.

In last Friday's Hafa Adai Fun Cup, Saipan United and The One FC eased past their respective foes.

Saipan United played last Friday and dominated Kanoa, 7-2, for a 3-0-0 mark and to keep the No. 1 spot in the team standings of the 10-squad field. Kanoa is at the bottom half of the rankings, as it has yet to earn a win after two games.

Ichiro Borja and Soheal Akanda scored two goals apiece to help Saipan United rout Kanoa, which drew its pair of goals from siblings Ruselle and Raymond Zapanta.

The One FC also hammered Bangladesh FC in their duel last Sunday, 5-0, behind the hattrick of Paul Jang. Don Cabrera and Qiwei Wang made the two other goals for The One FC.

U15 games in youth league, women's matches to resume

The 2021 NMIFA Youth Fall League will return to action this weekend after also taking a brief break due to the recent COVID-19 cases.

However, only matches in the girls and boys U15 will resume this Saturday and the NMIFA will enforce strict safety guidelines for players, officials, and spectators. Only fully vaccinated players, spectators, and officials will be allowed at the games. Proof of vaccination is required for spectators and officials. No spectators in the 14-and-under age group are allowed at the facility.

In the Dove Women's Fall League 2021, four teams each in the Novice and Intermediate divisions are confirmed to play this Sunday. The youth league safety measures will also be implemented in women's play.

Boswell's late field goal lifts Steelers past Bears, 29-27 PAGE 17

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Russ Quinn getting back to 'normal'

By MARK RABAGO
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Former CNMI national volleyball player and overall good guy Russ Quinn credits his faith and his participation in endurance races in giving him a fighting chance in his battle against blood cancer.

In this altered photo, former CNMI beach volleyball national player and coach Russ Quinn lets his T-shirt say what he feels about cancer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quinn, who represented the Commonwealth in the South Pacific Games in Guam in 1999 and Suva, Fiji in 2003, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma last year and said like anyone else he was initially shocked after learning he had cancer.

"No one wants to hear they have the 'C' word. It is a scary word that usually leads to major life changes. It was no different for me. When I was first diagnosed, I had been feeling 'off' for a couple of months. The cancer I have is a rare blood cancer, so it's harder to detect. When I found out what I had, I looked it up on the Internet and read the prognosis and outcomes for this cancer"

The 56-year-old San Diego, California native and his wife, Kanae, found out through research that the life expectancy of those afflicted with multiple myeloma was about five years. After a good cry, he picked himself up and decided they were going to beat it.

"My wife, Kanae, and I packed up our bags and went to Hawaii to start the journey of getting back to 'normal.' I have been incredibly blessed by amazing doctors and nurses that have provided incredible care. Because of them, I am having much better outlook for my future. Modern medicine is amazing!" said Quinn.

He also credits his improving diagnosis in knocking out the Big C to his faith in the Bigger G—God.

"I think one of the biggest things that has kept me going is my faith. God has opened many doors for me, he has surrounded me with so many loving people that have helped me when I was feeling down."

Quinn also believes that his years participating in endurance sports helped him immensely in not giving up and continue his battle against multiple myeloma.

"In those long races (Tagaman Triathlon, Hell of the Marianas, XTERRA, and adventure racing), you have to persevere through difficult times. You have to keep moving forward even if you aren't feeling your best. Just knowing that if I kept pushing myself, there would be better times ahead. I have always believed that staying positive and taking one step at a time would get me through most difficult situations," he said.

Aside from representing the CNMI as an athlete in the South Pacific Games, Quinn also served as coach for the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team in the 2007 SPG in Samoa and the University Games in Russia 2017.

"I have always loved being active. Saipan's weather provides an excellent environment for year-round sports. I enjoy mountain biking, scuba diving, golf, and barbecuing. I

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TanHoldings takes solo lead in MLS Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club dislodged the NMI Boys U18 National Team from the top spot in the MSL Cup of the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021 after escaping with a 2-1 victory last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Michiteru Mita hit the dagger for TanHoldings, as he scored in the fifth minute of the extra time off a penalty shot. With the win, TanHoldings improved its win-draw-loss record to 3-0-0 and moved up to solo first place in the six-team division, while the NMI U18 slid to second after absorbing their first loss in three games.

It was a come-from-behind victory for TanHoldings, as the NMI U18 hung on to the precarious 1-0 lead in the majority of the game before Jersh Angeles finally put the leading team on the board with his equalizer in the 89th minute. Mita then completed TanHoldings' late rally with his PK conversion to extend the squad's streak to three.

Earlier in the 37th minute, Kohtaro Goto gave the NMI U18 the advantage in the first half.

Meanwhile, only two three

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TanHoldings Footballl Club's Michiteru Mita, left, seen here colliding with a Paire Football Club defender during an earlier match in the MLS Cup of the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021, scored the game-winner in their duel against the NMI Boys U18 National Team last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Javin Okawa poses after winning the men's physique overall championship in the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort. LAO ZHANG

Javin wins men's physique overall

By MARK RABAGO
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Javin Okawa successfully defended his men's physique overall championship after beating eight other bodybuilders in the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

The 24-year-old Brabu Pharmacy staff first won

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